



WILLIAM H. BUDD.

HISTORY  
—OF—  
\* MARTIN COUNTY \*

—BY—  
WM. H. BUDD.

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A TRUE AND COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY FROM ITS EARLIEST  
SETTLEMENT DOWN TO 1880.

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FAIRMONT, MINN.  
PUBLISHED BY THE INDEPENDENT.  
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# History of Martin County.

A Detailed and True Account of Its Early Settlement  
by Wm. H. Budd, One of Its  
Oldest Settlers.

JAN 16 1887  
In the spring of 1856 what is now called Martin county was a part of Brown and Faribault counties. One tier of townships on the east embracing the towns now called East Chain, Pleasant Prairie, Center Chain and Nashville, was part of Faribault county, all the rest was Brown county, the boundaries of which was the Iowa state line on the south to the Big Sioux or Missouri river in Dakota, thence along the western boundary by the Big Sioux or Missouri river to a point nearly west of the Minnesota river; thence east to the Minnesota

river and along the line of the Minnesota river until Blue Earth county was reached, the eastern boundary being Blue Earth and Faribault counties. Only a small portion of the present Martin county had been surveyed. In the summer and fall of 1855 wonderful tales were told about the south, and especially the southwest of Minnesota territory, by the soldiers of the regular army passing through the country from Fort Dodge, Iowa, to Fort Ridgely on the Minnesota river, and also the hunters and voyagers, and now and then some persons who accompanied

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the soldiers, and others who looked over the land in advance of settlement. They told of the many and beautiful lakes and streams, and rivers of clear pure water abounding with large quantities of fish of different kinds, and ducks, geese, swan and other water fowl. In the sloughs large numbers of musk rat, mink, beaver, otter and other fur-bearing animals, of the groves of timber on the shores of the lakes and streams where the deer, elk and buffalo could be seen feeding at their leisure, only disturbed by the red men who in the spring and autumn would spend some time there in hunting and fishing until the cold weather of the winter would drive them away and they would return to places more sheltered by timber, where some would raise corn and where they had stored some of their supplies of dried venison, fish and other dried meats. We would hear that there was, somewhere between the Minnesota and Sioux rivers, a quarry of what was called the pipe stone, of which the Indians made pipes, and it was reported by persons who had been over the trail from one fort to the other that they passed through droves of buffalo, and large number of buffalo calves had been captured in the early spring at different times.

Calvin Tuttle and one Mr. Rickey were the first white settlers who came to this county. They came in March 1856, from near Fort Dodge, Iowa, and built the first house on Center Chain Lakes. There were three chains of lakes running nearly north and south and from four to six miles apart east and west. One was called East Chain, one Center Chain, and the other West Chain. Messrs. Tuttle and Rickey settled on Center Chain near Clear

Lake in Silver Lake township, on land which we think is now owned by C. J. True. The house was made of logs, only one room about 12x14 feet in size, and the chimney was built of stones and sticks. About the same time Mr. Tuttle made a claim on what was called Tuttle's grove on West Chain Lakes, what is now called Tenhassen township. There was quite a good deal of timber on each place. Mr. Tuttle's wife and children came in May 1856, the first family to settle here. They had seven children—three boys (two men grown), and four daughters (two women grown). Mr. Tuttle proved to be a speculator in claims, and a good specimen, who bought and sold several claims before he went away. He planted the first corn raised. This was on West Chain Lakes, and was damaged by frost on the 9th of September, 1856.

In the fall of 1856 there was an addition to the settlement in the persons of Thomas Cane and Samuel Dorning, who settled near Mr. Tuttle. They only came in time to cut some hay and put up a small house for winter. There was a young German who stayed part of the winter of 1856-7 with Mr. Tuttle.

The first settlement on East Chain lakes was made on section 1, Silver Lake township, somewhere near the last of May or the first of June, by Israel Mead, Mr. Rogers and A. A. Wilber, a brother of Mr. Wilber coming in the fall. They settled on property now owned by Mr. Rubie and Mr. Hill on East Chain Lakes. Mr. Mead and Mr. Rogers went back to Pennsylvania. Mr. Rogers did not come back; Mr. Mead came back with his family late in the fall. Mr. Cowing, wife and one child and Isaac Lewis, a single man, came back with Mr. Mead and removed into

the house Mr. Rodgers had built.

In the early part of June, 1856, Mr. Geo. Britts with his wife and two children, Mr. Gates and Wm. Hendricks settled on Center Chain Lakes and took claims near the property now owned by Mr. Rice and planted some corn and sowed some rutabagas, but did not raise much corn. In the month of July, 1856, Mr. Britt's settlement was strengthened by Rev. J. C. Hudson and wife and five children; Seeley Shaver, wife and four children; A. W. Young, wife and two children and T. B. Lily and wife. They bought out Tuttle and Rickey's claim and moved into the house first built in the county by them and obtained their claim to quite a good deal of timber. It was reported that they paid a good large amount for this claim right. They brought quite a number of head of cattle with them and built a comfortable log house.

About the first of July of this year Mr. E. B. Hall took a claim on section 20 and 17, Fairmont township, land now owned by Mr. Alton and Mr. Ott. Mr. Church took a claim on section 8 and 17, land which is now in corporate limits of Fairmont. In July Wm. Budd bought the claim of Church. Mr. Budd and Mr. Hall were single men. They did some breaking and sowed turnips for the first crop. They built for their use a small house and put up hay and built stables for their cattle and tried to make things comfortable for the winter. It was while doing the breaking that they broke their plow and Mr. Budd was obliged to go to Mankato, a distance of about sixty miles the way they were obliged to go then, to get it repaired.

There was a settlement on the Des-Moines river of a number of families in September. The settlement was at or

near the town site of the present village of Jackson. It was called Springfield. When the writer made a visit there with his neighbor, Mr. Hall, there were no settlers between what is now Fairmont and Jackson. He was acquainted with the Wood brother's a Mr. Thomas and a Mr. Sower, and family, and some of the boys who lived on the town site, whose names we do not remember, nor the names of the other parties living there. A family by the name of Thomas lived about a mile south of the town and had quite a large house which was used by the settlers for protection in the spring of 1857, at the time of the Spirit Lake and Jackson massacre.

We stayed there a number of days. There were no roads or trails leading from there, and we came back by the way of Tuttle's grove, now Tenhassen, passing through the towns now called Lake Fremont, Lake Belt and Tenhassen. The day was very warm, and when we got to Clear Lake in Lake Belt township our cattle took to deep water and left us in a bad condition, and we had to put the moral persuader to considerable use before they could be induced to leave the cooling bosom of the lake. Our supplies got soaked with water and you can imagine our condition. We spent the evening with Mr. Tuttle, who owned the claim where the large timber now is at Tenhassen, and had quite a pleasant visit with him. That night, the 9th of September, there was a frost which killed the sod corn and vegetables. We were obliged, on account of there being no bridges, to go around the south end of Lake Okamanpedan into Iowa and home by that route.

There was hardly anything rain-

that year, 1856, and we were obliged to go to the older settlement for supplies to live on during the winter. The writer went down to Garden City and dug potatoes. He had every seventh bushel for digging and putting in pits. There were plenty of ducks, fish and geese, which were procured and laid by for winter.

Some of the settlers went quite early in the fall after provision and got back before there was much snow. Some did not get back any further than three or four miles this side of Algona, Iowa, where there lived a settler by the name of Seeley. There was a heavy snow fall the latter part of November, and the teams out with wagons had to lay by and could not travel. About the 10th of December another party who had made some sleds started out and got nearly to Lime Creek settlement near Forest City, Iowa. This party was caught in a blizzard about the 12th of December, which lasted 64 hours. After the snow there came a rain which made a sharp crust. Some of the cattle could not be brought back until the later part of April or May following. Some of them were out several days before they could be brought to settlement and shelter, with not much to eat for nine days, one yoke of them dying from exposure. Mr. E. B. Hall and Gilbert McClure were instrumental in saving all the stock. The road had to be broken through the snow in order to get them to a settlement. This was one of the worst storms of the winter, the snow being very deep. In February some of the settlers went to help move these oxen further east where feed could be procured for them. As the snow was left in ridges and rusted all provisions had to be

brought on hand sleds long distances. These sleds had to be made with long runners in order to hold the loads up on the crust. A few days before Christmas the writer, with Mr. Cain and Mr. Tuttle, went from West Chain Lakes to Centre Chain, where they killed a small beef, hung three quarters in a tree and took one quarter and the hide, tied a long rope to it and dragged it to Mr. Tuttle's house. The reason this had to be done was that the snow would average from three to five, and in some places ten feet deep, and we had to keep some distance apart as the snow would not hold if we were all close together. The winter of 1856-57 was very severe and cold, with several very bad snow storms; snow three or four feet deep with a hard crust. Provisions were very scarce. When corn could be obtained it was ground in hand mills. Potatoes and salt were great luxuries when they could be procured. People had to resort to several things as substitutes for coffee.

Twenty men, nine women and twenty-three children comprised the number that spent the winter in what is now Martin County.

There was not much to amuse the settlers except working hard to get wood to keep warm, get something to eat and keep a road open to their barns and hay for their cattle. For these families that came late in the fall from thickly settled places in the east it was a long weary winter. There were no roads, the snow in places would hold up a person part of the time and in other places they would go out of sight. Snowshoes or other substitutes had to be used. All correspondence was carried on by going from one settlement to the other on snow shoes, etc., etc. There were no

horses in the county. In March it was better to get around, as the snow would then hold up some.

If the present settlers will think of this county as it was then, with no roads, no provisions, no means of communication, with a very severe, cold winter, they can imagine some of the hardships families then had to endure.

It was the last of March or the first of April before the teams that went out for supplies could get back, and then only by wading through water and slush, in some places quite deep.

About the latter part of the month of March, 1857, the chief Inkpadutah, with his band of Indians, made an attack on the settlement of Spirit Lake. At the time of the attack some of the men were away after provisions. After killing 42 persons, and taking 4 women prisoners, (Mrs. M. A. Marble, Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Thatcher and Miss Gardner), they moved from Spirit Lake, taking their prisoners with them, and went into camp on Heron Lake. Not satisfied with the plunder, cruelties and murders they had committed, they left a part of their camp, including the women and children and prisoners, at Heron Lake, with guards, and a portion of them came back to Springfield, now Jackson. Some of the settlers at Springfield, not liking the way they acted, for their own safety took quarters in a log house south of the town, owned by Mr. Thomas. The Indians made an attack on Springfield and killed eight persons. Previous to this attack a party called Dutch Charlie had taken the news of the massacre at Spirit Lake to Ft. Ridgley, and asked for soldiers to be sent for the protection of the settlers at Springfield. The settlers were on

the lookout for the soldiers and were surprised by the Indians in this way. As Dutch Charlie wore a blanket, so did Inkpadutah and his Indians. The settlers seeing some parties with blankets thought they were Dutch Charlie with some soldiers returning. They went out to see and were fired on from ambush in the brush behind a knoll. These people were besieged in the house several days, and were finally released by some troops from Ft. Ridgley. The troops did not kill any Indians as they did not pursue them in the deep snow and slush. The settlers remaining living at Springfield went back to the settlement near Algona and Fort Dodge. The women and children as well as men had to wade in the snow and slush, in some places waist deep, and suffered greatly from the exposure. Report says that at that time there were several camps of Indians around the lakes in different places, pretending to trap and hunt some. When some of the settlers from Springfield got to Algona, some of the people at that place knowing of the settlement at Tuttle's Grove, and acquainted with some of the people, raised a company of six men, well armed, to investigate into the state of affairs with the settlers at Chain Lakes. They visited the different settlements and gave Mr. Indian an invitation to go back to his reservation, one of them being near Manxato, called Winnebago agency; the other was on the upper Minnesota River, called the Sioux agency. There was then some open water around the lakes, at the time the Indians left for their reservation.

On hearing of the depredations done at Spirit Lake and Springfield the settlers concluded to build a log house for a fort, which they did, of six equal

sides large enough to hold all the settlers when needed. This building was erected on the claim of Mr. George Britts and was called Fort Britt. This land is now owned by Dr. Rice. This fort was not used by the settlers at the time of this massacre in the spring, but was prepared and in condition to be used when needed. The first time it was used by the settlers was later in the season, a mention of which will be made later on.

Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, agent for the Sioux of the Mississippi, arrived in this city last evening, from the Sioux Agency, on the steamer Minnesota, accompanied by Mrs. Margaret Ann Marble, one of the women taken prisoner by the Indians, at Spirit Lake, Iowa, in March last, and whose release from captivity has been briefly noted in our paper. From Mr. Flandrau we learn some very interesting facts connected with the captivity of Mrs. Marble and her associates.

Mrs. Marble states that on the 13th of March last, a party of Indians came to the residence of her husband at Spirit Lake, Iowa, murdered him, and took her off as a prisoner to their camp, in the vicinity of the lake. At the camp she found a Mrs. Thatcher, a Mrs. Noble and a Miss Gardner, all of whom had been taken prisoner by the Indians, in their attack on the settlers at the lake. Mrs. Thatcher's husband had escaped being killed, by a temporary absence from home, as, we believe, had Mrs. Nobles', but the entire family of Miss Gardner had been murdered.

The Indians broke up their camp at Spirit Lake immediately, and proceeded to Heron Lake, a distance of about twenty-five miles, where they camped, and left their squaws and prisoners, and started on an expedi-

tion, Mrs. Marble supposes, to the Des Moines, at Springfield, where they committed more murders. They returned to the camp at Heron Lake in about ten days, with a large lot of powder, dry goods, guns, etc., all of which had probably been secured in their attack on Springfield. On the next day after their return, the Indians broke up their camp, and started westward. They were on the march every day for upwards of a month, and only rested at Skunk Lake, west of the Big Sioux river, and about one hundred and twenty-five miles northwest of Spirit Lake. Mrs. Marble estimated the distance traveled at four or five hundred miles, probably owing to the torturous course pursued by the Indians, to avoid pursuit. She thinks they arrived at Skunk Lake about the first of May. Here they remained five days, when the fortunate circumstances transpired which resulted in the release of Mrs. Marble from captivity.

In relation to the trials and sufferings of the unfortunate females during the journey to Skunk Lake, Mrs. Marble's narrative is deeply interesting, and calculated to thrill the heart of the most indifferent with feelings of horror, indignation and desire for justice, if not revenge, upon the cowardly murderers.

Immediately on starting from Heron Lake, Mrs. Marble states that herself and associates were forced to carry heavy packs, and performed the most degrading and menial services in the camp. She says that the pack she was compelled to carry consisted of two bags of shot, each weighing twenty-five pounds, and a lot of camp furniture, increasing the weight of the sack to one hundred pounds. On



top of this heavy load, which this weak, ill-used and distracted woman was forced to carry, was placed the additional weight of an Indian urchin of some three or four years of age. The snow was very deep; the prisoners were but thinly clad, and most of the time suffering from hunger. The warm clothing they had on them when they were made prisoners was taken from them by the squaws, and in its place they received but a scanty supply, ill suited to the weather and the exposure they were forced to undergo. At times the unfortunate captive would fall to the ground, exhausted, and utterly unable to proceed further. Then the inhuman wretches would place a muzzle of a loaded gun at her head and threaten her with instant death unless she would immediately continue her weary march. When a horse stolen at the settlement would die or be killed by the Indians for food, the prisoners would be allowed to recruit their exhausted strength by a supply of horse flesh, but with these exceptions they suffered greatly from a want of food and were glad to snatch up the bones thrown away by the Indians after their repast. Mrs. Marble states that they were often forced to eat the wing feathers plucked from the ducks shot by the Indians, and shriveled before the fire to save themselves from starvation.

When the Indians would encamp for the night the captives were compelled to carry wood and water, build fires, put up the tepes, etc. They were, however, never allowed to prepare the food. At first they very naturally rebelled at the treatment they received, but the Indians beat them with clubs into submission to their orders. Mrs. Marble states that she soon discovered

that the only way to secure herself from ill treatment was to perform the duties assigned her with cheerfulness and alacrity. Herself, Mrs. Noble and Miss Gardner pursued this course and were treated more kindly than their associate, Mrs. Thatcher, who was in delicate health and utterly unable to do the amount of work required of her. This led to the most tragic and horrible occurrence when the party crossed the Big Sioux.

They arrived at this stream about fifteen days after leaving Heron Lake. The Indians cut down several trees on each side of the river, and thus made a bridge across it. When Mrs. Thatcher attempted to cross she was thrown into the river; she succeeded in swimming to within a short distance of the opposite side when one of the Indians deliberately shot her through the head, killing her instantly. The body of the unfortunate woman was left floating in the stream. Her death was hailed by the Indian women with loud shouts of joy and exultation. The feelings of the surviving prisoners at this horrible murder cannot be imagined. They beheld in Mrs. Thatcher's death the fate reserved for them, when overpowered by fatigue they would be unable to proceed.

About five days after the party reached Skunk Lake, two Lac-qui-Parle Indians, on their spring hunt, made their appearance at the camp of Inkpadutah's band. They were well received by the chief and his followers. A feast followed, at which the Indians related their exploits at Spirit Lake, boasted on the murders they had committed, the goods they had stolen, etc.

The Lac-qui-Parle Indians remained in the camp all night, keeping a very sharp lookout, they informed Mr.



Flandrau, on the movements of Inkpadutah, who, they apprehended, would attempt violence. The next morning, having previously learned that the Indians had three white women in the camp, they made a proposition to purchase one of the captives. After considerable negotiation, Inkpadutah's band consented to part with Mrs. Marble in consideration of receiving one gun, a lot of blankets, a keg of powder, and a small supply of Indian trinkets. The two Indians immediately started homeward with Mrs. Marble, and arrived at Lac-qui-Parle on the 20th of May. On the journey, occupying ten days, they treated Mrs. M. with great kindness, furnishing her with warm clothing, carried her over streams and provided her with food.

On arriving at Lac-qui-Parle, the two Indians, who are brothers, and known as Grey Foot and Roaring Cloud, placed Mrs. M. in their father's lodge, where she was treated with equal consideration and kindness. Here she remained until Messrs. Williamson and Riggs, missionaries, arrived, and removed her to the Agency, at Yellow Medicine. After a few days rest, with the families at the Agency and Fort Bidgley, she started for St. Paul, in company with Mr. Flandrau, and arrived at the Fuller House last evening.

Mrs. Marble is about twenty-five years of age; of medium size, and very pleasant looking. She is a native of Drake county, Ohio, and moved to Michigan about ten years ago, she has been twice married. Her first husband's name was Phips. After his death, she married Mr. Marble, with whom she removed to Linn county, Iowa, and ultimately to Spirit Lake, in Dickinson county. Mrs. M. is in a very destitute condition. Her husband has

been murdered and as to whether her parents are alive or not she is ignorant. We trust those who are blessed with a supply of this world's goods will contribute liberally in aid of this unfortunate woman. The privations she has undergone, and her present destitute condition, commend her to the consideration of the benevolent. Any money forwarded to her address at the Fuller House, will reach the proper destination.

Mr. Flandrau has adopted the most energetic means to secure the release of Mrs. Nobles and Miss Gardiner. On the 23d he dispatched a party of trusty Indians to Skunk Lake, with four horses and a wagon, and provided them with everything necessary to secure the release of the remaining captives by ransom. The Indians would reach Inkpadutah's camp in about four days.

Roaring Cloud and Grey Eagle report the band of Inkpadutah to number about fifteen lodges. The Indians are well armed, each of them possessing a revolver, rifle, etc.

This year there were additions to and departures from some of the settlements. Israel Mead and Mr. Cowing with their families moved away, while B. C. Hinkly and Isaac Lewis moved in. This left, in what is now Fairmont township, only four persons, and they all single men. This was called the bachelor settlement.

In May or June there was a settlement started on Elm Creek, what is now Rutland and Westford townships. Messrs. Geo. S. and H. H. Fowler, Henry Martin, G. W. Whitteisey, William Sleepier, Mr. Harrison, Philo Morse and Mr. Day, were the first to settle here. B. C. Hinkley also took a claim in Rutland township, and a man

by the name of Harrison took a claim on land now owned by Thomas Allen in Center Creek township. There were no women with the settlers the first year. Some of them built quite comfortable log houses, but the majority of them put up claim shanties, and in the fall left for the East, proved up on their land and did not come back (though some did come back in the spring of 1858). In June there were some additions to what is now Fairmont by three families, who made claims, but left the latter part of July on account of the reports of the Indian depredations. There were also some additions to the settlement at East Chain by the arrival of Mr. Older and brother, and Alfred Wilber, who returned with his wife and her sister. In the Center Chain neighborhood Dr. Shafer came and took the claim where the Center Chain postoffice is now. West Chain also had a new arrival in the person of Mr. Campbell.

On the 27th of July or thereabouts some of the settlers left the country and some went into the fort for safety, owing to an alarm caused by an article published in the *Mankato Independent*, July 25th, 1857, which is here inserted:

*Correspondence of the Pioneer and Democrat.*

SIoux AGENCY, M. T. )

July 17, 1857. }

Our relations with the Sioux Indians have never worn such an ominous aspect as at this moment. Step by step have the negotiations assumed a belligerent character, until now, there is no alternative but fight. The Superintendent (Cullen) has taken the decisive ground that the Sioux nation must aid in the capture and surrender the of murderer, Inkpadutah, and his party, to the civil authorities, in view of the

Article of the Treaty of 1851, which guarantees eternal peace and friendship between the contracting parties. At first the Indians appeared to regard the surrender or destruction of Inkpadutah as a matter of duty; next they would act in connection with the troops; and now they deny altogether the obligation to do anything in the matter. Thus stand the parties. The Superintendent, acting under explicit instructions, with ample testimony that the Sissetons, a portion of the Yanktons, and possibly some of the Mauwektion Indians, sympathize with the Spirit Lake murderers, while they on their part, throw themselves upon treaty stipulations, as they interpret them, and ignore entirely the Inkpadutah party.

Yellow Medicine is not the great spot of interest. We left there day before yesterday, at 3 o'clock p. m. Then all was quiet, the Superintendent awaiting the arrival of the Lower Sioux who were going up to hold a grand union council, and decide therein, what they should do towards the capture of Inkpadutah. On our way here, we met the Indians going up in considerable numbers, and they are still moving that way; their wives and children, with few exceptions, remain here.

Yesterday morning the rumor of the stabbing of a soldier, by an Indian of the Coreem (Keposia) Band reached us. These are the circumstances: At dusk, in the evening of Thursday, 15th inst. the soldier went to the river, near the improvement, for water and while quietly and unsuspectingly passed by an Indian, received a stab in the back. We have not learned the name of the wounded man; it was rumored that he was mortally

wounded, but by advices from there this morning, we learn that he still lives. The Indian sought the protection at the Sisseton camp. Major Sherman sent an officer and guard to demand his surrender which was not only peremptorily refused, but a large number of Indians paraded and leveled their guns upon them. The officer was not supported strongly enough to insist upon his surrender. He reported to Major Sherman, who immediately put his battery in motion to fire upon them. The Indians sent a deputation begging him to give them till morning and that they would give him up the culprit. The lateness of the hour and the desire, if possible, to avoid a collision induced the Major to grant the time. Later advices say that the Indian was not given up at 4 o'clock a. m. this day.

There are now at Yellow Medicine some 165 men, Major Sherman with his battery, one company of the 10th Infantry, and Major Patten and Captain Sully of the 2d Infantry, with their commands. Nothing could be more opportune than the arrival of the division of the 2d Infantry, four companies, under Col. Abercrombie. We learn that, then, the Colonel awaiting an express, will, if necessary, proceed to Yellow Medicine with all the available force at his command, perhaps one hundred men, and garrison the Fort with citizen soldiers.

The Indians now at Yellow Medicine number 5,000 at a low estimate.

The treaty Indians, at that Agency, count 4,250. We think 750 is rather a low estimate for the addition from the plains. In addition 200 lodges of Cut-heads are reported to be at Lacqui-parle, and on their way down. This would collect a force of 6,500; and with

the Yanktons, who have just left for the plains, 7,000 to 8,000. We have still some 2,500 Manwakantons, or Lower Sioux; so we would have to count at least 10,000 Indians. In case of a war, we may or may not count all those as enemies. We are not disposed to place much reliance upon the only branch of the family from whom we could expect any aid—that is the Lower Sioux. They are reported—those who went up—to be on this side of the Yellow Medicine river. All the other Indians, and our troops, are on the other side of the river. They won't mix with the others, and maintain now, if not an attitude of friendship to us, at least one of indifference in the coming struggle.

Here, then, are the figures, and you and the people of the Territory will see and judge what is best to be done:

Should a war break out, of which there are too many chances, there will be 19,000 Indians—say 2,000 fighting men—against 200 troops; or ten to one.

We do not wish to alarm, but to suggest that the possibility of an Indian war be considered, and that provision be made to meet it and close it up before winter sets in.

On August 1st there was an addition to the settlement on Center Chain Lakes by the arrival of John R. Gile and wife, Isaac Winchet and Geo. W. Mattox, and on West Chain Lakes the number in the settlement was increased by Wm. Z. Clayton and Geo. Merriam.

At a public meeting of the citizens of this section of the county it was decided to make the fort six logs higher and cover the sides and roof with sod. After the fort was completed most of the settlers returned to their claims.

Before leaving the fort the following agreement was made:

Fort Britt, August 3, 1857.

We the undersigned, claimants and citizens of Chain Lakes, Brown County, Minnesota Territory, feel to join together for each other's mutual assistance towards sustaining our just rights, surrounded, as we are, even by circumstances the most critical for ought we know; feel that it is our bounden duty to mutually pledge our honors as Americans to be true to each other whether present or absent as to our claims, that we will endeavor, in case of absence, of one or any of the party, to sustain their rights against any other person or persons, and shall use our utmost endeavor to avoid any and all illegal proceedings that would have a deleterious effect upon the well-being of this vicinity,

Signed,

Jno. R. Gile, Geo. Mattox, Isaac Winchett, E. B. Hall, Benson C. Hinkle, A. Wilber, J. C. Hudson, William Hendricks, Isaac Lewis, Jas. S. Hudson, W. Z. Clayton, Geo. G. Britts, Gilbert Shafer, Wm. H. Budd, Columbus Tuttle, A. W. Young, Thos. A. Cain, Wm. S. Campbell, Geo. Tuttle, Samuel Dorning, Geo. Merriam.

After being at home a few days word was sent us that Mr. Britts, and the men with him in the fort, had some suspicion of Indians, so they searched the woods near the fort, and in doing so Mr. Britts was shot in the left side, a slight flesh wound being inflicted.

He saw an Indian and snapped his rifle at him but missed fire. He then fired his revolver and the Indian fell.

Mr. Britts being afraid of ambush retreated back a little, when he met the men who went out with him and they all returned to the fort. Dispatches were sent out to inform the settlers, most of whom reached the fort in a short time. We then organized ourselves into a company for defense and elected Geo. Britts captain and Wm. H. Budd lieutenant. August 9th six men came from Blue Earth City, Messrs. Young, Lee, Jellett, Clark, Bowen and Kiester, the latter for a number of years state senator and

judge of probate of Faribault county. These men stayed all night and took turn on guard. August 10th Capt. Britts and as many men as could be spared from the fort without leaving it unguarded, went into the woods to scout and look for Indians and try to find the Indian shot by Mr. Britts. They could not find him but did find blood on the leaves near the place where he fell and along a trail leading to the lake. They also found a small tepe, but after a thorough search through the woods found no Indians. After being housed up at the fort for a few weeks, fighting mosquitoes and keeping a sharp lookout for the dusky savage, some of the men, with their families, returned to their claims, others left for the East, while a few remained in the fort. Those who belonged to the bachelor settlement of Fairmont returned to their homes without getting any great prizes, to commence the work of waiting for times to change.

There were some claims taken in Center Creek township by A. Parks, Chas. Parks and sons, and Mr. Meeder. A. N. Fancher and Thos. Allen also took claims in this township in the spring of 1858. In Nashville a settlement was made by Ira Glenich and some others in 1859 and 1860.

In these early times of the first settlements of Minnesota there were not many ways in which one could earn money, and it would seem that there would not be many outlets for money, still provisions had to be bought. When the writer came to Minnesota he had \$1200. When he had obtained provisions and supplies for the first year's settlement and got his cattle back from where they had been blockaded in Iowa, the sum total of his

possessions in money was \$2.50. We presume this was largely the case with all the other settlers, and accounts, with the Indians scares, for so many of them leaving. Any observer of the settlement of new countries knows that the first settlers, those who pave the way for developments, are either compelled to leave on account of misfortune, lack of means of support, and in most instances lose what little property they possessed.

In the fall of 1857 Isaac Lewis and B. C. Hinkle built a house in Fairmont. Mrs. A. W. Young and Mrs. Jno. Giles were the first white women to visit the bachelor settlement, coming from Fort Britt. Mrs. Giles' nickname was "Dick" and this name was given to the lake upon which her husband took a claim.

The first wedding in Martin county was on the 24th day of September, 1857 at the house of Calvin Tuttle (Tenhasen) the contracting parties being Lousia Tuttle and W. S. Campbell, the ceremony being preformed by J. C. Hudson. The writer was there and partook of the wedding cake. There were no liquid refreshments except cold water, no orchestra or bridal procession but the occasion was enjoyed by all who attended.

The first white child born in the county was about a year previous to this time, in the fall of 1856. A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Britts, and was named Mary Virginia Britts. In the fall of 1857 Mr. George Britts and family left the country and did not return, saying they had had enough of frontier life. Mr. Seely Shafer and family left for Wisconsin and were gone nearly two years before they came back. Nearly two-thirds of the settlers left the county in the fall

of 1857, many of whom never returned.

By the act of the territorial legislation in 1857 this county was separated from Brown and Faribault counties and described by towns and ranges, all being taken from Brown county with the exception of a tier of towns on the east.

In October, 1857, the north half of section 8, town 102, range 30, was surveyed for a town site by the Des Moines and Watonwan Land Company, and was called Fairmount (afterwards by petition changed to Fairmont). The same company had located several town sites for speculative purposes, the law then allowing parties who wanted to establish town sites to hold a section of land by having a house built on each quarter section. This house was to represent store, blacksmith shop, hotel and carpenter shop. This company wanted some houses built and tried to negotiate with the writer for building the same. Having heard before of town site speculators we agreed with them that we would build one house, and if that was paid for we would build the others. E. B. Hall, A. L. Sharpe and myself built the first house on the town site. The building of this house was not paid for, and there were no more built. This company surveyed and made a plat of Fairmont, which has since been copied by Deputy Surveyor Sawyer, but was void as they never required any title to the land. As to subsequent plats we will speak of them in due order.

In the fall of 1857 Gov. S. Medary appointed I. S. Fisher, A. L. Sharpe and Wm. H. Budd as commissioners to organize the county of Martin and locate the county seat. These parties met December 16th, 1857, and organized the county and established the county



seat of Martin County at Fairmont. I. S. Fisher was made chairman of the board of commissioners, E. Cook Smith register of deeds and clerk of the board of county commissioners, B. C. Hinkle, treasurer; Isaac A. Lewis, sheriff. There were no appointments made of probate judge or clerk of court. The commissioners had their first meeting January 4th, 1858, when they completed the list of officers, but most of them failed to qualify, salaries too small for an object, no salaries being paid for the first two years.

The first election held in the county was held at Fairmont, April 15, 1858. The question of the credit for railroad bonds was voted on at the time. In order that our new settlers may know what the railroad bonds were, let them ask those who were here ten years ago. The judges of election were I. S. Fisher, A. L. Sharpe and Wm. H. Budd. Clerks of election, I. A. Lewis and B. C. Hinkle. There were seventeen votes cast at this election, but lo, when these returns reached the capital at St. Paul, and after passing through the different hands at that place, they were credited as 1,700. The voting of these railroad bonds nearly bankrupted the treasury and no railroads resulted. Later settlers will remember them as the Seely-Chamberlain and other railroad bonds.

At the meeting of the commissioners April 24, 1858, petitions were received and granted establishing three election districts, the first election district consisting of what is now the towns of East Chain, Silver Lake, Tennassen, Lake Belt and Lake Fremont. The second consisted of the towns of Pleasant Prairie, Fairmont, Rolling Green, Manyaska and Jay and the south half of Center Creek. Rutland, Fox Lake,

Fraser and Elm Creek. The third consisted of the north half of the towns above mentioned, also the towns of Nashville, Westford, Waverly, Galena and Cedarville. The judges of election appointed for the first district were, A. Wilber, A. W. Young and W. S. Campbell, and the meeting was held at Fort Britt. The records are lost as to who were appointed in the second and third districts. My recollection is that there were no elections held in the third district as there were not enough settlers.

The first settlement made in what is now Fox Lake and Elm Creek was made by Lewis, James and Andrew Tweed, three brothers, in the spring of 1858, two of them married. One of them lived on the north side of Fox Lake, and two of them on Elm Creek. Two brothers by the name of Hanson had claims on Twin Lakes, one of them married. These people were all Norwegians. They lived there till the spring of 1863. James and Louis Tweed came to Fairmont and are still living in the township of Fairmont.

In February, 1858, a bridge was built across the inlet of Lake Okomanpedan. The timber for this bridge was furnished by Calvin Tuttle and sons. It had to be hewn and framed, the plank being split timber. When the timber was all framed some of the Center Creek people came to the raising of the bridge, which was 160 feet long. We think that we were there about two weeks and helped frame it. We thought at the time that we had done something for the good of the public.

The year 1858 was a year of hard times in the older settlements, but brought more settlers to this county, in what is now Waverly, Rutland and Westford townships. Mr. H. H. Fowler

returned with his family, Mr. Geo. S. Fowler also returned with them. Philo Morse, W. W. Carrington, F. Adams and S. H. Parker (single men), also came. John W. Sleeper and family and Willard Harrison and family, and some others settled along the banks of Center Creek near Winnebago. Mr. A. C. Dewey and wife, Wm. Johnson and family, Isaac Johnson and family, Chas. Johnson (single) and A. F. H. Brigham and Mr. Nichols (both single), settled in Fairmont. Dr. Shafter returned to Center Chain Lakes with his wife and sister. There were also some new settlers at Tuttle's Grove, Tenhasseu, and A. N. Fancher settled at Center Creek. There was also in this year a settlement of four or five single men in the towns of Galena and Cedar.

In the spring of 1858 some of the men who had taken claims the year before came back and staid long enough to pre-empt their claims, others did not return, abandoning their claims entirely. Those who were here went to work and put in corn, potatoes, beans, rutabagas, plenty of melons and carrots, large quantities of squash and "garden truck," all of which came very good, for we had learned the lesson that we must work or the ship must sink.

In May 1858 Minnesota was admitted into the union and became the thirty-second state.

There was a very fair crop raised in 1858 by those who planted, but a large amount of damage was done to the corn by the blackbirds.

In the fall the first post office in the county was established at Fairmont. W. H. Budd was appointed postmaster, and took the oath of office at Winnebago City October 9, 1858. The first

mail was brought by Andrew C. Dunn and a Mr. Sherlock. Not long since, Mr. Dunn, speaking of the early days of Fairmont, said that he did not think the landlord at Fairmont at that time set a very good table. For bread the landlord set his man "Friday" to grind corn on a piece of stove-pipe that had holes in it like a grater. Some of it was grated coarse and some of it left almost whole, but it was the only way to make bread in those times. This was before the time of baking powders.

In making the first trip with the mail Mr. Sherlock lost the mailsack in the Blue Earth River, and that trip was lost, unless it was that the distribution of the mail in the river notified the fish to come up, for there was high water the next spring and plenty of fish came up the river to the lakes.

The first death in the county was the death of Mr. Nichols, who was killed by the falling of a tree in the fall of 1858, on the land now owned by Mr. Shigley.

On the first day of December Benson C. Hinkle was given the contract to carry the mail from Winnebago City to Fairmont once a week, and took the oath of office as mail carrier before Wm. H. Budd, justice of the peace.

September and October of 1858 were very wet months. Lakes and streams were high, and we could make but slow progress in traveling. Crops had to be watched constantly to keep the blackbirds from destroying them, more especially the corn crop.

Maj. Sherman, afterward Gen. Sherman, then commander of a four-gun battery, with six horses on each gun, came through Fairmont with his command from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on his way to Fort Ridgley, on the

Minnesota River. He was obliged to come this way on account of the high water on low lands west, and better roads this way, and thinking he could get better sustenance for his command in the way of grain and provisions. He did some work on the bridge at Tuttle's Grove in order to move his artillery across. He had sixty-four mule teams and eighty head of horses. They camped near Mr. Ott's house in Fairmont township. They got corn in the shock of Mr. Hall to feed for the night. The writer sold him 80 bushels of corn at 75 cents per bushel. This was in the fall of 1858. While in camp here a child of one of the families connected with the battalion died.

The route from here to Fort Ridgley was down Lake Avenue, across the outlet of the lakes near where the railroad bridge now is, then northwest across Lily Creek, west to Center Creek, then north through Rutland township, taking a northeastern course and crossing the lakes between Twin Lakes and Lake Charlotte, above where the county poor farm now is, where the lakes divide, the water north of the ridge running into Elm Creek and south into Center Creek. The command followed the lakes on the east side to Elm Creek, where the Fowler settlement was and still is, thence north by way of Perch Creek, east of Madelia, between the latter place and Butterfield's mill. They were obliged to take this route on account of high water. The direct route from Fort Dodge, Iowa, to Fort Ridgley ran through the towns of Lake Belt, Manassah, and Cedar, by way of Cedar Lake, but as above stated, this route could not then be taken on account of high water. These were the first troops to pass through Fairmont after the settlement was made. Previous to

that time Lieutenant Albert Lea, after whom the thriving little city in Freeborn county is named, passed through going west on an exploring expedition.

Also Gen. Fremont with his command had gone through this country, and the name of some of his men can now be seen cut in the rocks at Pipestone.

The fall and winter of 1858-9 was not very cold, and not much snow fell, enough, however, to make some sleighing, but it was not deep. The lakes and creeks were very high.

There was a boat built here, the lumber of which it was made was sawed by a whip-saw. If our readers do not know what that is let them inquire of Webster's dictionary. That was the only kind of saw mill in this part of the country at that time. The boat was built by Isaac Johnson, W. H. Budd and some others. It left here in April 1859, and went east by the following route: From Center Creek to the Blue Earth river, down the Blue Earth river to the Minnesota, from the Minnesota to the Mississippi. F. H. Brigham, A. L. Sharpe and Sam Dorning were the passengers, and they took their outfit with them. The writer heard from them after they reached St. Paul and La Crosse.

The following is a copy of the document issued by the executive office, giving us legal authority to constitute election districts, which had been previously made, in advance of the authority received from the governor:

STATE OF MINNESOTA, EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
St. Paul, October 28, 1858.  
*Messrs. Benson C. Hinkle and Henry H. Fowler, of  
Martin County, Minn.:*  
GENTLEMEN:—You are hereby appointed commissioners to divide the county into towns in conjunction with William H. Budd, heretofore appointed, under provisions of the act to provide for township organizations.

Very respectfully,

HENRY H. SIBLEY,

By FRANCIS BAASIN,  
Sec'y of State.

Governor.  
[STATE SEAL.]



February 8, 1859, the commissioners met at Fairmont and constituted three election districts, comprising the territory heretofore mentioned. The southern district, District No. 1, was called Nevada; District No. 2 Fairmont; District No. 3, the northern, was called Waverly.

There were some additions to the settlements in 1859, but very few. Andrew Everett and family settled near Fort Britt, Henry Pratt and family settled in Fairmont at East Chain Lakes, as also did Burton Rowley. This year Mr. A. Wilber built a dam at East Chain Lakes, and a mill was built there later. The crops were quite good this year; corn, potatoes and "garden truck," and some wheat was raised on Elm and Center Creeks.

April 26, 1859, another wedding occurred in the County of Martin, the contracting parties being DeWitt Older and Miss Elizabeth M. Clark, who was a sister of Mrs. Wilber of East Chain. They were married at the residence of Gilbert Shafer, at Center Chain, Rev. J. C. Hudson officiating.

In the spring of 1859 the state passed a law that the chairman of the town supervisors should act in place of the old county commissioners for the transacting of county business. Andrew Everett was chairman of the board in Nevada precinct, W. H. Budd in Fairmont precinct and John W. Sleepier in Waverly precinct. An assessment was made in June of this year on the property in the different precincts, and was the first ever made in the county. The spring of 1859 was rather a cold season, the 4th of July being so cold that fires were needed.

The county supervisors met at the office of the register of deeds in Fairmont, on the 13th day of September,

1859, and organized by electing W. H. Budd chairman. At this meeting they equalized the assessments of the different districts and found the amount of property returned subject to taxation to be of the amount of \$31,356; the amount of taxes levied to be raised for the ensuing year, 1860, \$313.56, which was the first tax levied in the county, and was for the purpose of paying all previous indebtedness contracted and to defray all expenses for the ensuing year. As this county had been organized nearly two years, the reader can readily see that as we were providing for three years' expenses, salaries of officers, fuel, rent, books of record and stationery, that the county was not run on a very expensive basis. B. C. Hinkle acted as clerk of commissioners by right of his office of register of deeds.

The following bills were allowed:

W. H. Budd, services as commissioner and books and stationery.....	\$25.35
B. C. Hinkle as clerk, books and stationery..	28.20

There were also some other minor bills.

This year B. C. Hinkle filed a petition on what is now the town plat of Fairmont. The old town plat company having failed to perfect their title he proved up and acquired a title to the land. The following were the treasurers in the different election districts, who acted as collectors of taxes: A. W. Young, Nevada; Asa Dewey, Fairmont; Geo. S. Fowler, Waverly. This year Asa Dewey was elected county treasurer and was the first in the county.

The harvest of our crops this year was done in a most primitive way. There were no threshing machines in this county then, and great pains had to be taken to protect crops from the ravages of the blackbirds—the fields

had to be watched. There were probably more birds in the county then than now, and with a small acreage they would literally cover a field.

The winter of 1859-60 was cold, with quite a little snow in November and January, but not much sleighing. December was a pleasant month.

About the first of January, 1860, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, who built a part of the log house on the hill where the writer lived, and near where the residence of Mrs. Gleason now is, gave what would be considered a high-toned party for the county in those times. They concluded that this was the best way to get acquainted with the settlers in the county, as they intended to run their house for a hotel afterwards, and they invited their neighbors from Center Creek, Elm Creek, Tuttle's Grove, Pilot Grove, East Chain, Winnebago City and Blue Earth City. In arranging for the dance it appears that two sets of musicians, who were then called "fiddlers", had been engaged, and both came. We danced all night, and had a good, lively and enjoyable time and went home some time the next day. It may be of interest to some yet living in this county and elsewhere to know that we have not forgotten them or that dance. We write this from memory, as to some of the people who were present: Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Fowler and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. W. Harrison and daughter, Mr. G. S. Fowler, Mr. Sherlock and others from Winnebago City; Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Everett, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Young, the Misses Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. B. Lilly, Mr. and Mrs. B. Thompson, from Fort Britt; Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cain, Miss Tuttle and others from Tenhassen; Asa Dewey, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac John-

son, B. C. Hinkle, Mr. Pratt and others from Blue Earth City; John W. Sleeper from Elm Creek, and some other parties from across the line in Iowa, and others whose names we do not remember. This was a great society event for this country then. The size of this house was 11x19, story and a half high. The musicians, dancers and dining room were all in these two rooms, and there was a good chance to get acquainted with each other.

For the purpose of getting supplies we were obliged to go to Mankato, or other older settlements, but we had raised a good crop that year and ducks and geese were plenty and we lived fairly well. After the middle of January there was no cold weather, very much such a season as the spring of '95. Wheat could have been sown in February, and was sown in March. This was a very dry spring, and no water running in the outlets of the lakes. There was considerable garden stuff put in this year, which was of great help and assisted much in the appearance of the table.

March 7, 1860, the commissioners met and transacted such business as came before them necessary to be done. Geo. Fowler had been elected the year previous as county auditor, and acted as clerk of the board. He was the first auditor of this county.

J. H. Johnson, Darius Rowley and C. Schultz and families all settled near East Chain Lakes in this year. There were some new settlers in Tenhassen and different parts of the county.

In March Mr. John B. Swearingen and Jane Swearingen, his wife, settled on Buffalo Lake in what is now Rutland township. With them came James Swearingen and his three children, also Wm. H. and David Swearin-

gen, Rebecca Swearingen, all children of J. B. Swearingen and wife, who still live in Fairmont. Mr. Swearingen built quite a large log house—one and one-half story.

The weather was very fine in March and April, not very much water running, the streams nearly dry.

A few families who were living near had a meeting and had obtained the house of B. C. Hinkle on the town site and fitted it up for a school. The money to run the school was raised by subscription. This school was taught by Mrs. Loraine Swearingen, wife of Geo. Swearingen, who now lives in this city. This was the first school taught in Fairmont. There was not a very large attendance. Mrs. Swearingen gave excellent satisfaction as a teacher and was re-engaged later on. Three months was the length of this first term of school in Fairmont.

In 1860 some wheat was sown by Messrs. Pratt, Fowler, Harrison, Allen Bros., Parks, Fancher and Meeder. There was not much object in growing small grain as the threshing had to be done by hand or trodden out by horses. The principal crops were corn, potatoes, beans and sorghum, and turnips as substitutes for apples for winter.

In the spring of 1860 there were quite a number of new settlers in the county—perhaps twenty. Mr. B. C. Hinkle had some of his land, section 8, where Fairmont now is, surveyed and platted for a village plat. The surveying and platting was done by W. S. Campbell, the surveyor of the county, and this was the only work he did as county surveyor. The plat was filed and recorded in the register of deeds' office that spring. There were some "land lookers" or hunters who came through this year. In the

months of March and April there were quite a number of Indians trapping and hunting and fishing around the lakes. Some of the settlers carried on quite a trade with them, giving flour and provisions in exchange for fur. At times there must have been 500 or more of them in camp around the lakes. Whenever they could get any whisky they became very troublesome.

There was no rain or storms in the month of March, though there was quite a good deal of rain in the month of April, the ground was quite wet for wagons and teams, it was also a cold month. Grass was no higher the first of May than the first of April. There was considerable breaking done.

The first camp meeting held in the county was held at Tuttle's Grove and lasted a week. It was a sort of a union meeting of the several religious denominations and resulted in great good. There had previously been a lack of church organization, and new countries need churches as well as the older ones. The people took an active part in the conducting of the meetings, but they were much annoyed by the mosquitoes who could attend and persist in singing when others were talking, and making themselves disagreeable.

On September 4, 1860 the commissioners met at their annual session and made a tax levy for all purposes, of four mills on the dollar. A. W. Young was this year elected auditor. The commissioners were B. C. Hinkle, chairman, J. C. Hudson, and J. W. Sleepier.

The winter of 1860-61 was very cold at times, with considerable depth of snow. The settlers suffered much from the cold weather. On January 1,

the county commissioners met at annual session, B. C. Hinkle, chairman, J. C. Hudson and J. W. Sleepier and A. W. Young county auditor. They voted to raise \$200 to complete a county house for the use of officers and court purposes.

The spring of 1861 was very wet, the streams were all out of their banks and the sloughs were full, and there being no bridges the water had to be waded to get round.

There were some more settlers added to the different settlements, and the house lately torn down, known as the "Lake House" was built by J. M. Goodrich. Mr. Goodrich was a lawyer, the first to try his luck in the County of Martin. He did not stay quite a year, luck was against him, the settlers took more kindly to ministers than lawyers. There were some few settlers on Elm Creek and Nashville, a few at East Chain and Tuttle's Grove. Mr. James Babcock and family, Samuel Carver and family, C. Personius and family, Mr. McCusick and family, W. Rice and some others settled at Tenthassen, built houses and did some breaking. These houses were shanties built of logs, with shake roofs. If the reader does not know what a shake roof is we will state that they are substitutes for shingles, and in the winter they were covered with sod to keep out the cold and snow, and generally the outside of the house was banked with sod. The houses of these first settlers were most always built in the timber or near it, and each settler had some timber. Later when the country came to be settled more thickly and claims were taken on the prairie, another kind of a house was used, popularly called "dug-outs", and of which we will speak later.

In 1861 occurred the first lawsuit to disturb the county, in which H. H. Fowler was plaintiff and Philo Morse defendant. The case was heard before F. Pratt, Justice of the Peace. This Philo Morse made himself conspicuous in several lawsuits later, being the cause of more litigation in the early days of the county than all the other settlers together.

In the year of 1861 Mr. J. B. Swearingen built a small mill for grinding corn and wheat, and was run by horses. This mill was on the farm on the east side of Buffalo Lake, now owned by William Wege. In the summer he built a small water mill for grinding wheat, corn and buckwheat, at the outlet of Lake Wilmot in Silver Lake Township. This mill was not completed in this year but was got in shape so some corn could be ground on it. The next year the frame was put up, and at different times additions were made. This mill was very noted, being the first one in the country, and people came long distances to have their grain ground. It seemed more like a civilized country, as it did away with coffee mills, stovepipe graters and sieves for preparing corn and wheat for use. The land on which this mill was built is now owned by Mr. Westerman. It was not built on the outlet but a channel was cut through the banks and the outlet dammed a little, which gave good water power.

July 3d, 1861, the commissioners met in session, with C. C. Hinkle, chairman; J. W. Sleepier, J. C. Hudson, commissioners; J. B. Swearingen auditor. The object of the meeting was to select grand and petit jurors for the court to be held in October. This was the first term of district court held and was called for the purpose of trying a criminal action against Philo

Morse, charged with burning a barn, cow and some other personal property belonging to John W. Sleepier. At this meeting A. W. Young was appointed clerk of court of Martin County, Willard Harrison, sheriff. Below are the names of the jurors as selected by the commissioners.

#### GRAND JURORS.

L. F. True,  
J. H. Babcock,  
E. Pratt,  
Charles Schultz,  
J. Allen,  
H. Personius,  
S. B. Hazen,  
S. Delaney,  
George Fowler,  
Isaac Johnson,  
J. R. Friend,  
L. B. Rowley,  
Wm. S. Campbell,  
M. DeWitt Older.  
T. A. Cain,  
J. B. Swearingen,  
Charles Parks,  
John Cusick.  
L. Goldsmith,  
G. McKellup,  
D. Rowley,  
J. Norton.

#### PETIT JURORS.

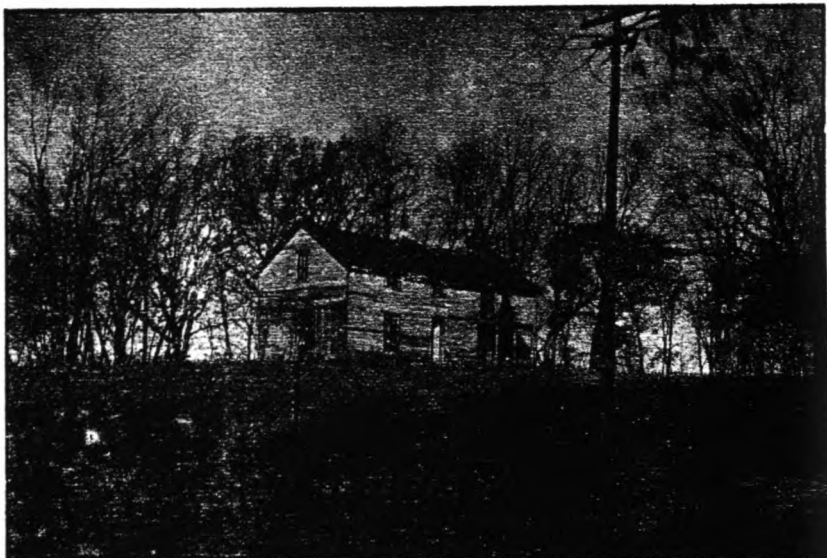
Wm. Johnson,  
Irroet Johnson,  
A. Andevson,  
O. Robertson,  
Paten Parks,  
Andrew Tweed,  
P. W. Conly,  
Louis Tweed,  
L. G. Meader,  
William Rice,  
James Swearingen,  
Thomas Allen,

Avery Parks,  
William Cusick,  
Calvin Tuttle,  
A. H. Wester,  
C. Personius,  
A. N. Fancher,  
David F. Rice,  
H. H. Fowler,  
L. M. Hazen,  
Gilbert Shares.

#### WITNESSES IN CASE.

Perlina Pratt,  
James H. Dunham,  
John Bark.

The commissioners, the reader may see by the list, had seventeen grand jurors and eighteen names for petit jurors. This was all they drew and was evidently for the reason that they knew of no more settlers in the county at the time, and were not able to do as the State Canvassing board did, to increase a vote of 17 to 1,700. The commissioners in September met and appointed J. W. Goodrich county auditor in place of J. B. Swearingen, resigned. Notice for a special term of court had to be published in a newspaper if there was one in the district where the judge resided. This judicial district then consisted of all the territory south of Nicollet and Le Sueur counties, and west of Waseca and Freeborn counties to the state line. The clerk of court, not finding the number of names selected by the commissioners for petit and grand jurors to be sufficient to fill the requirements of law as to the number, added some so as to make the grand jury consist of twenty-two persons and the petit jury also of twenty-two persons. The first district court held in Martin County was called October 21st, 1861, at Fairmont.



The above is a cut of the old Lake House, for years Fairmont's swell hotel. This building was originally one half the size, and made of logs. Later a frame addition was built on and the log part was sided. It was the first regular hotel, and in it was kept at same time the first store, the United States Post Office, Register of Deed's office, County Auditor's office, Clerk of Court's office and County Treasurer's office. It was situated on ground where the Fairmont Improvement Association's park now is, and in its time it was the most historical building in the county.



14

15



There were some new settlers in Fairmont township in October of this year,—Mr. V. H. Burdick and family, and James Canfield. Mr. Burdick moved into the writer's house and was appointed deputy postmaster, etc., and took his place as landlord of the hotel. Mr. Pratt, who had previously kept the hotel, and who gave the high-toned society dance of which we have spoken, having moved away, Mr. Burdick took charge.

B. C. Hinkle and W. H. Budd built a room for the grand jury on the west end of the log building on the town site of the village of Fairmont. This was the only house then on the town site. The lumber of which this room was built was hauled from Shelbyville, Blue Earth county. There was a little log building that was occupied by the Court and petit jury. The size of the court room was about 14x16. The night before the court was held there was a large prairie fire which came from the south, and the settlers were obliged to work hard all night to save their homes. In the morning the wind changed to the northwest and brought another fire from that direction. The judge with some of the witnesses, jurors and attorneys, were caught in this fire, and their teams becoming stampeded and fearing to go through the blaze, they were badly scorched, their faces and whiskers burned somewhat, and when the judge reached Fairmont and called court was a little vexed and inclined to fine some of the jurors and witnesses who had not arrived in time. The judge presiding was Judge Branson from Mankato. A. C. Dunn of Winnebago City represented the State. The only case for trial was the State vs. Morse

J. W. Goodrich attorney for Morse. The grand jury was sworn, and the law as to the case given to them. As usual the Court made a special charge as to liquor being sold to Indians. The jury commenced their investigations and had called several witnesses before them in relation to the sale of whiskey to Indians, when they were called into court and discharged for the following reasons: J. W. Goodrich, attorney for Philo Morse, defendant, objected to the panel on the grounds that it was not drawn according to law, for the reasons, as we have before stated, that the list returned by the clerk of court was not selected from the list as made by the Board of County commissioners, the clerk of court having added other names. The Court sustained the objection and discharged both grand and petit jury and adjourned the term: This ended our first term of district court, lasting not longer than a half day. Defendant Morse, who had been in custody at Mankato, Minnesota, was discharged by order of the Court, and the benefit received from the term was the payment of the expenses by the county, and Mr. Morse was set at liberty to be tried for other offense later. This term of court was a matter of considerable excitement and interest to the people of the county and occasioned a great deal of talk.

After the excitement of the court was over, the settlers began to prepare for winter in earnest. As the crops had been quite good this year the settlers did not suffer for provisions. The writer and some others went to work at Winnebago City to put up some new buildings. The land office had been moved from Chatfield to Winne-



bago City in this year. George Moulton built a store, and Winnebago City became quite a trading center, as old settlers will remember. Law and Dendon built a hotel. Provisions were not very high, flour cheap; groceries, such as coffee and sugar, quite a good price. Some of our readers may want to know what we used for lights. Tallow dips were the style then, it was before the days of kerosene oil in this country. Some burned a light made of a stick, on which they wound a rag, and placed in a saucer of grease.

There was no deep snow up to the first of January of this year. No particular item of news, nothing outside of the routine of the daily life of toil. The usual elections were held, some new officers were elected. On the 31st of December we had a watch meeting at Fort Britt.

January 7th the county commissioners met. Present Wm. H. Budd, W. S. Campbell and L. F. True. Wm. H. Budd was elected chairman. A building committee was appointed and ordered to report plans and specifications for a county building at some other meeting. They also drew 24 names for a grand jury and 33 names for the petit jury. J. H. Goodrich was appointed county auditor. After the first of January until the 28th of February the weather was not very bad. There was quite a depth of snow but it was not drifted much, though it was quite cold.

On the 6th of February, 1862, Rebecca Swearingen and John Burdick were married at the home of J. B. Swearingen, by the Rev. J. C. Hudson. This was an old-fashioned wedding with a large attendance and a general good time. This wedding lasted two days, the first day was the bride's day and

the second the groom's. The house of Mr. Swearingen being too small the dance was held at the home of the groom's father, which was then the hotel of Fairmont, and we had the pleasure of dancing with the bride and her sisters.

Soon after this the writer went to the Blue Earth river to aid in building a bridge across that stream near Mr. Dunham's place, what was called "Dunham's ford." The weather was very cold, one day the wind blowing from the northwest with the temperature at 30 degrees below zero. The next morning was clear and pleasant about sunrise. After working a short time my face and ears and feet began to get very cold, and on looking found that the thermometer was as low as it could go, 42 was the limit these thermometers would register. It was the coldest weather we have ever seen, except a few years before on the Mississippi while going from Winona to LaCrosse. At that time there was floating ice in the river, floating in large cakes. The next morning by 9 o'clock we crossed the river on solid ice, and for a few days it was very cold, so cold that the stage drivers would not take their horses out for fear of freezing.

From Mr. Dunham's we came back to Fairmont to attend a meeting of the county commissioners. In those days the commissioners cut quite a figure in the progress of the county, just the same as the common council has been doing for a few years back in the Village of Fairmont, working for the good of the town and county, spending a good deal of time without any compensation, working hard to get things started.

On the 28th of February, 1862, the commissioners met and made their annual report, present W. H. Budd, Wm. Campbell and D. F. True. Asa Dewey having moved away, B. H. Burdick was appointed County Treasurer in his stead. The following accounts were allowed;

D. H. Tanner, for board of Philo Morse while in his charge at Mankato.....	\$32 00
Willard Harrison as sheriff, October '61 term of court, in subpoenaing grand and petit jurors and attending court.....	30 75

At this meeting J. W. Goodrich, who was about to move away, resigned the office of auditor and B. C. Hinkle was appointed in his place. The time and expense of subpoenaing jurors was as it would be at our present term of court. By bills as allowed, and heretofore mentioned, the reader can get some idea of the economy practiced in the management of the finances of the county.

A heavy snow storm set in about the first of March and lasted a number of days, drifted badly in places and made large banks so that for a few days it was almost impossible to travel, until the snow had settled. To drive dull care away and pass the time a good deal of outdoor amusement was indulged in. Miss Fannie Burdick had a friend, a Miss Harrison, visiting her. They lived next door to the bachelors, and to be courteous we had to visit our neighbors, and many pleasant hours were passed in practicing on Indian snow-shoes and Norwegian "skis". The snow drifts were in places as high as the house, and one of the favorite tricks was to try and go down the drifts on the "skis" without losing foot-hold. These "skis" were a sort of a snow-shoe from five to seven feet long and about five inches wide, and it required considerable practice to go

down a steep drift without losing balance or falling. This was one of the favorite pastimes of the winter; the evenings were spent in social visits.

At the time of this last fall of snow David F. Swearingen, one of the proprietors of our mill, was at the water mill at Lake Wilmot. The snow drifted so badly that he had to climb out of the chimney of the shanty in which he was at the time. He had a dog in the house which he also got out of the chimney with him. There were two young men on a claim about two and a half miles from the mill, Jas. and Dan'l Canfield. (This claim is now owned by Capt. Wm. Bird.) Thinking he could reach the house of these two men he started out, but the drifts were so bad, the snow so deep, that he became exhausted and when within half a mile of the shanty could get no further. But by chance the dog found his way to the shanty, having been there before. When the Canfield boys saw the dog alone they thought something had happened, and followed the dog's tracks until they found David, and they took him to the house with them. This was a genuine Minnesota blizzard the snow drifting so that one could not see any distance. This snow went off with a heavy rain, filled the sloughs, raised the lakes to their banks, and made the creeks like rivers. The Blue Earth river was very high, so high that all the bridges were swept away, except the one across that river at Mankato. The bridge which we had worked so hard in the winter to help build at Dunham's Ford was also swept away. Some children, by the name of Stillman, were drowned near Shelbyville. The family had been living in the timber in the winter, on an island, and they waited so long about

moving out, and the river rose so high that they were surrounded by water and drowned. The bridge at the inlet to Lake Okomapedan was also carried away, and there was not a bridge left west of Mankato.

W. W. Carrington, being tired of bachelorhood returned to Wisconsin, was married, came back with his wife and moved into the house of B. C. Hinkle in Fairmont.

The County Commissioners at this time bought the present Court House grounds from Benson C. Hinkle, price \$100.00.

The Superintendent of Schools was appointed by the County Commissioners, one for each election district. G. S. Fowler was superintendent of Waverly and Seeley Shafer of Nevada.

J. W. Goodrich moved away this spring,—our first and only lawyer. Mr. Calvin Tuttle sold his claim to Mr. Geo. Nelson, who had it surveyed and platted into timber lots.

May 9th the commissioners met at a special meeting and appointed the officers for the towns of Fairmont and Waverly, they having failed to hold elections. The following officers were appointed at Fairmont: Supervisors,—B. C. Hinkle, A. Anderson, V. H. Burdick; treasurer, Isaac Johnson; Assessor, W. H. Budd; Town Clerk, W. W. Carrington, Justice of the peace, W. W. Carrington, and also J. B. Swearingen. At Waverly: Supervisors, Ira Glenick, Thomas Allen, Peter Connelly, treasurer, Geo. Fowler; assessor, L. F. True, town clerk and justice of the peace, Dan'l Skinner.

In May Calvin Tuttle, and family, W. S. Campbell and family and Thos. Cain moved away. Mr. Tuttle had taken quite an active part in the building up of the country. In the summer

of 1859 Mr. Tuttle with some of his boys and Mr. Campbell had gone to Ft. Ridgely and made hay for the government horses, etc. Mr. W. S. Campbell had held several offices in the town and county. As county surveyor he made a plat of the village of Fairmont for B. C. Hinkle in 1860, and had also surveyed some roads. He had also held the office of county commissioner. The country was getting to thickly settled for Mr. Tuttle; he was a typical pioneer, and moved further west. He was a man of considerable energy, of strong prejudices, and while generous with his friends, with his enemies went to the other extreme. He deserves particular mention, the first white settler in the county. Of his subsequent life after leaving Martin County we are not informed. Some record should be made, something done, that would in the years that are to follow, perpetuate the name of Martin County's first white settler, Calvin Tuttle.

Mrs. Youngman and family (one son and two daughters) took a claim on the west side of Buffalo Lake; Mr. Bordwell a claim south of Fairmont.

The commissioners met in session June 2nd, 1862, all present. A. C. Dunn was allowed \$15 for acting as county attorney in the case of the State versus Morse. The contract for building the County house was let to W. W. Carrington, for the sum of \$200. Mr. Carrington hauled the lumber from Shelbyville, and let the contract for the work to W. H. Budd. The sills, floor, joist and rafters were cut in the grove and hewed by hand. This is the building that was used for twenty years for county offices and court purposes, also used for holding public meetings. In it was held the first

Sabbath school of the county. It was also used, at the time of the establishing of a fort here, by the officers and men. This building is now standing in fair condition southeast of the present court house, and was sold by the commissioners on the completion of the present building to A. L. Ward, who reports the roof and sides, and the plastering to be in good condition and that he believes the builders did an honest job. There were a number of preachers in the county by this time and on the completion of this building they would take turns in holding meetings every Sunday. The church rules and regulations were held somewhat loose at this time, the hand of fellowship and good will was extended alike to the Presbyterian, Baptist or Methodist. There were three school districts in which a term of school was held this summer. The school in Fairmont was taught by Mrs. Carrington in the old Hinkle house on the town plat, but was not completed on account of the Indian outbreak of August 20th. There was also a school taught at Center Chain by Miss Fannie A. Burdick, also one near A. N. Fancher's taught by Mrs. Loraine Swearingen, who taught the first school in Fairmont.

Time passed on, the settlers were doing all they could, trying to make for themselves homes and raise such crops as under the circumstances would most benefit them in supporting their families. A few new settlers would come, and some old ones leave. Some land-lookers passed through the county, selecting claims to be occupied by themselves or others later, and some of them passed on to the Des Moines river. The War of the Rebellion was then in its second year and

was a theme of a great deal of conversation, great interest was manifested by the people, but on account of the lack of proper mail facilities events would become old before brought to our knowledge. The settlers began to think that if they were better acquainted with each other they would feel safer, and could help each other more if there should be trouble. They therefore decided to celebrate the 4th of July, by having some speaking, music and a picnic dinner and a dance in the evening to be held in the grove near the house later known as the Lake House. This house then had only one room, 14x20 ft. It has a history, of which we will speak later. When the committee on arrangements began to look around they could find a speaker and man to read the Declaration of Independence; but a fifer, tenor drum, a flute, cornet and bass drum could not be found. An old fiddle or two was all there was. So the committee sent to the mill on the Blue Earth river, at Shelbyville, and got a white elm about one-half inch thick, heavy and wide enough to make a drum. They also made a sheet iron drum. They then made a bridge across what was then a gulley west of the house of Fred Betz. The oration was delivered in the grove near where Mr. Wollaston now lives, but the picnic dinner was held near the Lake House and the dance was held in the Lake House. The day was very fine, and at sunrise the salute was given, and the people began to arrive from the north, east, south and west; there was a large attendance. The Declaration was read by J. B. Swearingen, the oration delivered by A. Clendenning, singing by the choir and music by the full band. A very enjoyable celebration. Great



hospitality was shown by all the people to each other, and the oration by Mr. Clendenning was considered A No. 1, and gave him a prominence in the county. At that time he was living at Winnebago City, now lives at East Chain and has resided there for a number of years. It was a genuine, old-fashioned 4th of July, without fire crackers, no lemonade, no ginger cakes, and no beer. The dinner in the grove was pleasing to the appetite, even without these, and the settlers became merry and thus became well acquainted with each other. The dance was a decided success. Nearly all stayed all night, not going home till morning. It was the first 4th of July celebration and no one appeared to care to end it.

This year at the time of the assessment an enrollment was made of those liable to military duty between the ages of 18 and 45, the first enrollment made. Some enlisted from this county, and went south to aid in the defense of our country in the War of the Rebellion, of whom W. H. Swearingen, Jas. Canfield, Danl. Canfield, Henry Youngman and some others whose names we do not remember. A great many of the settlers went to the settlements, further east to work in the harvest.

There was some sickness in the settlements but no deaths reported. During this year there were rumors of an Indian outbreak, and fears were entertained for the safety of the settlers. Previous reports and scares, which had come to naught, had rendered the people somewhat doubtful as to the actual hostilities of the Indians. Then their attention was called largely to the War of the Rebellion, and in a measure they lost sight of the danger immediately surrounding

them from hostile Indians. Every year a large number of Indians came from the reservations, and from the timber where they had spent the winter, would come to the county and hunt and fish. Our people had associated with them, and traded with them, and did not anticipate much trouble. There were rumors of discontent among the Indians at the Yellow Medicine Agency, west of Mankato, on account of the failure on the part of the government to make payment of their annuities at the time it should have been done.

The government was badly embarrassed for ready money, as large sums had to be raised to defray the expenses of the War of the Rebellion, and some two months passed before they were able to raise the money and get it on the way to the Indian agencies, as it was a custom to make the payment in gold. At that time Clark W. Thompson was Indian Superintendent of the Winnebago and Yellow Medicine agencies. He and one Galbreath, a sub-agent, were doing all they could to call the attention of the authorities to the necessity of making prompt payment. Certain renegade Indians, lead on by half-breeds and "squawmen", were fermenting trouble, and leading the Indians that, on account of the war and the absence of the soldiers from the country, that they could easily conquer and drive away the people from the state. Some friendly Indians gave notice and warning to the whites of the danger of an outbreak. The government officials finally got the money and it was forwarded to St. Paul as fast as possible by special conveyance, but it was too late. The Indians had massed in large numbers from the agencies, and

all efforts to pacify them seemed to increase their discontent, as the leaders took it up and made them believe that it was on account of fear on the part of the whites. It is claimed by some, that had more stern measures been at once adopted, the rebellious disposition manifested by the leaders and their followers would have been quieted and prevented one of the most bloody and brutal massacres and greatest destruction of property ever told in the history of the West. With mail facilities (as we have before stated), not of the best, information of this danger was not received until actual hostilities had commenced and the soldiers were being rapidly pushed to the scene of the massacre by forced marches from St. Paul and other places.

During this time rumors became circulated in relation to the Indians that caused great excitement. It was reported that they had commenced killing the white settlers, were burning buildings and destroying property; that on Aug. 18th, 1862, the Indians had killed some of the whites at a place called Acton, that they had killed most of the whites in the Redwood and Yellow Medicine agencies. Some doubted these rumors, and men were sent to learn the facts. From this county B. C. Hinkle and John Allen, and also some from Faribault county were sent to investigate. A number of days passed without hearing from them. These were anxious days for the settlers here, who hardly knew what was the best thing to do. Some thought they would be killed; some, who did not know much about the cruelty of the Indians, said there was no danger. On the 26th of August, early in the morning, some runners

came with the information that the Indians had broken out in actual rebellion and had killed some settlers and soldiers at the agencies and had attacked New Ulm, were killing all the white settlers, had taken some of the women prisoners, and were burning houses and destroying property belonging to the whites; that there had been eight persons killed at Belmont, north of Jackson, and that some families west of Madella had been massacred. Then all was excitement.

Some started out to notify the settlers in the different towns of the county, and began to get ready to move away to the older settlements. It took some time to notify the settlers to the south and southwest around Tenhassen. The following were the settlers and their families, as near as we can remember, who were then located at Fairmont and vicinity: Mr. John B. Swearingen and family; Mr. A. H. Wooster and family; Mr. James Swearingen and family; Mrs. Youngman and family; Isaac Johnson and family; W. W. Carrington and family; V. H. Burdick and family; Wm. Johnson and family; J. W. Burdick and wife; Mrs. L. J. Allen and two children; Mrs. Frier and child; Mr. Chester Bardwell and family; A. Anderson and family; M. Pratt and family; B. C. Hinkle; Henry Pratt and Wm. H. Budd. The settlers at East Chain were as follows: B. Rowley and family; DeWitt Older and family; Darius Rowley and family; C. Schultz and family and J. H. Johnson and family. At Center Chain, J. C. Hudson and family; Seeley Shaver and family; A. W. Young and family; G. Shaver and family; Mrs. Hazelton; John Friend and Wm. Hendricks and also O. Robertson and family. At Ten-

hassen, Mr. Kusick, Mr. J. H. Babcock, C. Personius, with their families; H. Personius; Wm. Rice and family; J. N. Rice; Sam'l Carver and Dr. McDuff and family. At Elm Creek, John Allen H. H. Fowler and family; Geo. Fowler; M. P. Conneely and family; Mr. Harrison and family; Mr. E. Pratt and family; Mr. Beardsy and family; Mr. Lewis True and family; Mr. Skinner and family; Thos. Allen; Hosea True and family; Mr. E. B. Clynich and family; Mr. Chas. Parks and family; Avery Parks and family; Frank Parks; A. N. Fancher; Mr. Meeder and family; Mr. Hazen and family; S. Delano and family. At East Chain and on Fox Lake the following settlers: Lewis Tweed and family; Andrew Tweed and family; Jas. Tweed; Mr. Hansen and family and brother.

Philo Morse, who has been mentioned before, who resided on Elm Creek, and a minister (Skinner), refused to move away with the settlers, saying that they had no fears of the Indians. And it was suspected that it was these men who burned the settlers' buildings and not the Indians.

The people around Fairmont got together very hurriedly and left about noon (Aug. 26th.) They did not get quite out of the county that night, as it took some time to load and take away their most valuable possessions. Some of them not expecting to come back, and some of them expecting to be killed. Wm. H. Budd and others left about the same time and went to East Chain to assist the settlers there in getting away and meeting the Fairmont settlers at Winnebago City. On reaching East Chain they ascertained that the settlers had begun to move and had started for Blue Earth City.

They then started across the prairie to overtake our people on the road to Winnebago City. The people all along the road had left their houses and goods. They had, on receipt of the news, not waited for any ceremony or to take any steps to protect their property, but had started on the move.

We struck the trail leading to Winnebago City ahead of the Fairmont movers and went on to that place, all along finding settlements deserted. At Winnebago we met John Allen, who was one of the parties who had been previously sent out to ascertain the facts as to the outbreak and he told the news of the Indian massacre at the agencies and other places. In the morning we went to Law's hotel and there met B. C. Hinckle, of Fairmont. We procured some breakfast, but had to cook it ourselves, for the women had already gone east for safety. The men in the surrounding country were gathering at Winnebago City as they were afraid to stay in their houses or near the timber. All the settlers along the timber deemed it safer to move out on the prairie, which they did, and camped in companies. The settlers from Fairmont moving with their teams did not reach Winnebago City until noon of the next day. The Elm Creek and Center Creek settlements had already passed on ahead through Winnebago City. The Tenhassen settlement did not reach Winnebago until the evening of the second day.

Immediately after breakfast a company of fifty-three men was formed. In this company, from this county, were B. C. Hinckle, John Allen and W. H. Budd. H. W. Holly, Grover Burt, Jesse Dunham, Messrs. Goodnow and Sherwood were also

members of the company. Holly was elected captain, Jesse Dunnham first lieutenant, and John Allen second lieutenant. A set of scouts were elected, and a complete organization was had, and the work was done with a system. Settlers were instructed to move out of the timber and to camp on the open prairie and to keep scouts out all over the country to report any movements of the Indians.

The evening of the second day the settlers from Tenhassen reached Blue Earth City. The delay was accounted for as follows: They had started the first day, but after moving a short distance the scouts which were in advance reported Indians moving on them. This was a false report. What they supposed was Indians was a party of scouts sent out from Blue Earth City, Capt. P. B. Davy in command. This party, instead of passing through Tenhassen were obliged to go around Lake Okonawpedan, in the edge of Iowa as the bridge over the inlet of the lake was gone. Dr. McDuff, who then lived at Tenhassen, made a detour by the route north of Tenhassen, reached Winnebago and reported the settlers at Tenhassen surrounded by Indians. Arrangements were made, and some men detailed from the force at Winnebago City to go to Blue Earth City to enlist more men to go to the rescue of the settlers at Tenhassen. On reaching Blue Earth they found that the settlers from Tenhassen were reported en route for that place, they having found that the scouting party of Capt. Davy were friends and white men instead of Indians. The settlers from this county moved on east of Winnebago City, to the vicinity of Walnut Lake and went into camp, with the settlers from other places and

organized themselves for protection and mutual aid. The forming of the Home Guards at Winnebago City, in a measure stopped the stampede. Had it not been for that organization and others at Blue Earth and other places the country would have been stampeded. It took a great deal of effort on the part of the 'cooler heads' to prevent the entire abandonment of the county by the settlers. All sorts of rumors were in circulation, and then, as now, the most ridiculous were apt to be believed. Some people were always seeing Indians and their trails.

The soldiers, while scouting for Indians west of Blue Earth river, so general was the scare and stampede, would find houses with the tables set and everything left as if the settlers had just stepped out.

After remaining in camp at Walnut Lake until the hostile Indians had been driven westward by the volunteers and U. S. soldiers, the settlers began gradually to go back to their claims. They found their hogs and cattle, which had been running wild, got them together, and tried to save some of their crops. A large number of the settlers did not get back until after the soldiers of the regular army had been stationed at Fairmont. It took some time and hard work on the part of the settlers to get the legislature, at a special meeting, to grant the settlers a line of forts from the Iowa state line through Fairmont, Madelia, New Ulm, Hutchinson, Glencoe, etc. The opposition to the establishing of the forts on this line was by some people at Blue Earth City, Winnebago City, Garden City, Mankato, etc., who wanted the line established through their towns. This would have left us entirely with-



out any protection from the small bodies of Indians who would steal in and murder the settlers. Had not this line of forts been established through here, the settlers would have been obliged to move east of the line established and abandon their claims. The most of the settlers had raised very fair crops and had enough to support themselves and families if they could live in their own houses, or two or more families live in one house. If they had been obliged to abandon their homes they would have been made destitute at the beginning of the winter. After the line of forts was established there was a patrol each day, from the Iowa line, connecting with Ft. Dodge and north to Ft. Ridgely. A scout would start out from here in the morning and be relieved at each post and make Ft. Ridgely in the evening. One would start from Ft. Ridgely in the morning and get here in the evening, and scouting parties were out from the forts along the line each day, and any sign of Indians was promptly reported and the soldiers massed and sent in pursuit.

The fort established at Fairmont included what was the old court house building, running about ten feet south, thence 20 to 30 feet west, and then in a northern direction to what is now Lake Avenue then along the line of Lake avenue to Main street, and from Main street south to a point about opposite Max Feustel's new stone block, then west. It was a log stockade, made with soldiers' quarters and barracks inside. There was also a fort established on the north side of Elm Creek, on the land now owned by A. Roskoff.

The first soldiers stationed at Fairmont were Company A of the 25th Wis-

consin, which regiment was stationed at the forts along the frontier. The officers used the building built for a court house for their quarters. Major Jerry Busk, later Governor of Wisconsin and Secretary of Agriculture under President Garfield, was in command. This company was relieved from duty at Fairmont by company A, 7th Minnesota troops. The change was made in the winter and the Wisconsin regiment was removed by teams during the very cold weather. At Rochester, Minn., the ladies of that place gave them a reception and free supper in honor of their prompt action in establishing stockades and protecting the people on the frontiers.

It may be of interest to some to know the cause of the outbreaks by the Indians. It is true that there may be blame attributory to the government or its officials. It would be strange if not. Our knowledge of the matter leads us to say that in our judgment all that could possibly be done by the Indian agents and other employes was done to appease them. In fact, if there was any error it was in treating them too leniently. The government had all it could possibly do in the early stages of the Rebellion to enlist and equip men and raise money to defray the expense of the war. The officials at Washington had, in a measure, overlooked the protection of the settlers on the frontier. They needed in the South, and for the defense of the nation, every soldier, and had left only a small number. The annuity due the Indians was payable in gold. That was hard to get, and at the time of the outbreak was thirty days past due, but was received at the agency at the day of the outbreak. Some think that if more stern meas-

ures had been used at the time of the Spirit Lake massacre, that if the murderous Inpadutah and his band had been shot the Indians would not have dared to attack the settlers. It is a fact that then, as now, there were those who gave fool's advice, who pretended to be friends but were enemies. The "squaw-men," a certain class of settlers who expected to be benefited by the Indian war, done much to lead them to believe they could whip the whites, confiscate their property and drive them from the state. We do not credit the report that the South had sent emissaries to encourage the massacre in order to help them. That we think is speculation. One after another of the real or pretended grievances had been settled and the danger was believed to have been passed the government had sent forward to the seat of war in the South the soldiers kept here in reserve in expectation of the uprising of the Indians. It was evidently a part of the scheme of the chiefs and their attendants, for the troops had hardly left the state before their hellish work began. The following extract we take from the history of the Indian war at that time:

"All prospect of trouble in this region seemed now to have disappeared. The upper agency Indians had dispersed. The Lower Sioux Indians had taken no part in the events above recounted. All had apparently decided to wait patiently for the arrival of the annuity money. Receiving no information on the latter subject, and believing that no good reason existed for a longer detention of the detachment of Company C, Capt. Marsh instructed Lieut. Sheehan to report at Fort Ripley, and in compliance, that detachment marched from Fort

Ridgley at seven o'clock on August 17th. On the same day Lieut. Culver and six men of Company B were detached to St. Peter with transportation for a company of some fifty recruits, just enlisted at the Indian agencies, now en route for Fort Snelling for muster, leaving at Fort Ridgley two officers and seventy-six men. Such was the military situation on the very eve of one of the most horrid massacres recorded on the pages of American history.

On Monday morning, August 18th, at 10 o'clock, Mr. J. C. Dickinson reached Fort Ridgley from the Lower Sioux Agency, bringing the startling news that a wholesale massacre of the whites was in progress at the last named place, this at first incredible rumor being a moment later confirmed by the arrival of other refugees bringing a wounded man. Capt. Marsh at once resolved to go to the rescue. The long roll was sounded, the little garrison was promptly under arms, and hastily dispatching a mounted messenger (Corporal McLean) with orders to Lieut. Sheehan to return immediately with his command to Fort Ridgley, and directing teams with extra ammunition and empty wagons for carrying the men to follow as soon as harnessed, Capt. Marsh with Interpreter Quinn and forty six men marched for the agency, within thirty minutes of the first alarm, leaving at Fort Ridgley twenty-nine men under command of Lieut. Gere. Captain Marsh and the interpreter were mounted on mules. About three miles out the teams overtook the command, and, placing the men in wagons, Capt. Marsh hastened towards the scene of slaughter, meeting on his way scores of affrighted citizens fleeing toward the

fort for protection. Only six miles from Fort Ridgley houses in flames, and mutilated but not yet cold corpses of men, women and children at the roadside, marked the limit thus far reached by the ravages, and revealed the appalling character of the outbreak; but still in the hope that all this was the work of some desperate band of outlaws among the Sioux, and strangely confident that it was in his power to quell the disturbance, Capt. Marsh, again forming his command on foot, hurried on.

At Faribault's Hill, some three miles distant from the lower agency, the wagon road descended from the high prairie and crossing a small stream stretched across a wide bottom land of the Minnesota River, covered at this time with tall grass, to the ferry. Half way across this bottom, Capt. Marsh halted his command for a moment's rest, and proceeded in single file, advancing in this order to the ferry house, which stood on the north side of the road some two hundred feet east of the ferry landing. Here, on the east bank of the river, on either side of the road, the heavy grass merged with scattered thickets of hazel and willow, interspersed with open sand patches left by the river's overflow, one larger thicket extending southward along the river bank some two miles in varying width from twenty to two hundred feet. Across and close to the west bank were the high bluffs on which the lower agency was located, their steep face then covered by a thick growth of young trees and underbrush. Halting at the ferry house shortly after noon, the boat was discovered to be on the east side in apparent readiness for the command to use for its crossing,

though the dead body of the ferryman had been found on the road. Up to this time few Indians had been seen, and these on the high prairie west of the river, south of the agency, on their horses. Now appeared some squaws and children on the bluff west of the river, and near the ferry was a single Indian who seemed marching as a sentinel. This was Chief White Dog, and Capt. Marsh addressed him through his interpreter. White Dog said, "Come across; everything is over here. We do not want to fight and there will be no trouble. Come over to the agency and we will hold a council." During this discussion two soldiers went to the river to obtain water for the men and discovered the heads of many Indians concealed behind logs in the brush on the opposite side. A drunken man at the ferry told the soldiers, "You are all gone up; the Indians are all around you; that side hill is covered with Indians." Capt. Marsh then ordered the soldiers forward to the ferryboat. The posts to which the ferry ropes were attached had apparently been loosened, and pending attention to these, the command formed in line facing the river. Sergeant John F. Bishop stepped to the water's edge to fill his cup, and, returning, reported to Capt. Marsh his belief that Indians were crossing above to the east to surround the command."

The plan of the ambushade was to withhold the attack until the soldiers were on the ferryboat, but apparently doubting its exact fulfillment, at this juncture White Dog leaped back, firing his gun. "Look out!" shouted Quinn, and the next instant came a volley from the concealed Indians on the west side. Several men fell at the first fire,

among them Interpreter Quinn, riddled by twelve bullets; but fortunately most of the volley passed over the heads of the men, and Capt. Marsh gave the order to fall back to the ferry house. This command had hardly been uttered when, with demoniac yells, large numbers of the savages attacked from the east, pouring from the grass and bushes along the road, and firing from the ferry house and barn of which they had gained possession. Here for several minutes ensued a contest, at short range and hand-to-hand, most sanguinary but unequal, the little command holding its ground until nearly half its numbers had fallen, and Indians by the score lay dead. But Capt. Marsh now seeing that he would soon be completely surrounded and overpowered gave the order to gain, if possible, the thicket along the river to the south, this being the only quarter not held by the savages; and, fighting every inch of the way, fifteen of the men succeeded in reaching this thicket. Capt. Marsh now only hoped to reach Fort Ridgley with the remnant of his command. The Indians riddled the thicket with buckshot and ball, but had the troops no longer at such a serious disadvantage; and deterred, too, by their own heavy losses, they fired at longer range. Husbanding their now scanty ammunition and gradually working down the river, the surviving soldiers maintained the fight until four o'clock, by which time the south end of the thicket was nearly reached. Discovering a large party of Indians moving down the fort road with the evident intention of intercepting him at the open ground south of the thicket, and thinking escape possible only by reaching the west bank, Capt. Marsh deter-

mined to cross the river, which was here some ten rods wide, and, taking his sword and revolver in hand, led the way. He had succeeded in wading, perhaps two-thirds of the distance, when he found the water beyond his depth, and, dropping his arms, attempted to swim across, but had proceeded only a short distance when he called loudly for help. Privates Brennan, Dunn and Van Buren swam to his assistance, the former reaching him as he was sinking for the second time. Brennan drew him above the surface and the captain grasped his shoulder for an instant, but losing his hold, the brave officer sank beneath the remorseless waters to rise no more. The men joined their comrades on the shore. The command now devolved on Sergeant John F. Bishop, the party now comprising, besides himself, three corporals and eleven privates. Bishop himself had been wounded, Private Svendsen was badly shot and had to be carried, and Bishop decided they must continue southward on the east side. Believing that the soldiers had reached the west bank, many of the Indians had crossed at an adjacent ford and were hiding in ambush in a convenient thicket; providentially, an overhanging bank of the river enabled the little command to pass unperceived those who were opposite the open ground on the east side; and so, out of the very jaws of death, they passed, carrying the wounded men, and in momentary expectancy of encountering other savages. No pursuit, however, was made. Five miles from the fort, darkness approaching, Bishop dispatched two brave men, Privates Dunn and Hutchinson, in advance with the tidings of disaster, and himself

reached Fort Ridgley at about ten o'clock. Eight other men of Capt. Marsh's party afterward reached Fort Ridgley, having eluded the Indians by hiding in the bushes near the ferry until nightfall, and escaping in the darkness. Five of the survivors were wounded, and thus the total loss was one officer drowned, twenty-three men killed and five wounded. Some weeks later the bodies of the fallen were removed by their sorrowing comrades to Fort Ridgley, and buried in one grave beside their leader, Capt. Marsh's body having been recovered in a search made by the members of his company.

#### FORT RIDGLEY.

"On Monday, August 18th, after the departure of Capt. Marsh, refugees, from the surrounding country, mostly women and children flocked into Fort Ridgley in large numbers, all bringing tales of murder and desolated homes. The few available small arms in the fort were furnished to the men who seemed most likely to handle them to advantage, these men being placed on duty with the soldiers, of whom, besides the sick and hospital attendants, only twenty-two were available for active duty. At about noon there arrived at the fort in charge of C. G. Wykoff, clerk of the Indian superintendent, and his party of four, the long-expected annuity money, \$71,000 in gold. Here this party was of course halted. As the day passed, the frightened fugitives continued to come in, until at nightfall more than two hundred had arrived. Intelligence from Capt. Marsh so anxiously awaited came not. Pickets were posted in every direction by Lieut. Gere in person, instructed, as his duty required, nearly every man in the company, to

rally promptly on the fort in case of attack in any quarter. Shortly after, dark, the two men sent forward by Sergeant Bishop reached the fort, bringing the young officer in command the direful news of the slaughter of his comrades and death of his commander; a tale, whose import, in view of the possible result to the helpless and wellnigh unprotected mass of frightened humanity now in his charge, was sufficient to appall the stoutest heart. Knowing, however, that new regiments were at this time forming at Fort Snelling, the nearest military post, Lieut. Gere, without a moment's delay, penned a dispatch to the commanding officer of that post, briefly detailing the situation and asking for immediate reinforcement; also, requesting that officer to acquaint Gov. Ramsey with the state of affairs. This dispatch was written at 8:30 o'clock, and sent forward immediately by Private William J. Sturgis, mounted on the best horse in the garrison. The messenger was also instructed to report the situation to Lieut. Culver and Agent Galbrath at St. Peter, hastening, if possible, their return with the men in their charge."

Next week we will give extracts on the battles of Fort Ridgley and New Ulm, condensed as much as possible.

It will be impossible to give in detail the history and account of the various battles and line of defense made by the settlers to hold back the massing hordes of savages, who had formed a deliberate plan of action and attempted to stampede and drive the settlers before them. There is no question but that the Indians had deliberately deceived the people, and with the renegade whites and half-breeds had planned a line of action.

to that end the massacre started in various places at the same time, and on the frontier from the Iowa line to the northern settlements murders and depredations began. Their plan was to have burned New Ulm, take Fort Ridgley, move on Mankato and St. Peter, believing, from the information that they had from their emissaries that they could easily drive the whites from the state. The bravery of the settlers and daring of the handful of soldiers alone prevented this. The battle of New Ulm stands foremost in the ranks of this Indian war, and the bravery, hardihood and coolness of the settlers with the handful of volunteer soldiers is largely due the prevention of the plan mapped out by the Indians. From eye witnesses we have information of this contest; every tuft of grass might conceal a lurking Indian, who had decorated their persons with weeds and grass so that in the early morning or dusk of evening or during the smoke of battle they were hardly perceivable. The town was on fire and all seemed lost, yet by persistent effort and bravery the Indians were driven away and a portion of the town saved. We have seen a picture of the battle, and are told that it was a great source of attraction in the Minnesota building at the World's Fair, and the battle of New Ulm will be recorded in history of this state as one of hardest contested of the Indian wars of '62. On their repulse at New Ulm the Indians drew off and moved on Ft. Ridgley. There were two attacks at this place; we will only give a synopsis of the last. The Battles of Birch Cooley, Yellow Medicine, Wood Lake and other places would be very interesting had we time to make mention of them, also the campaign made by the soldiers in

which they drove the Indians across the Missouri river leaving only scattering bands who stole in and committed murders and depredations at various points but the main body were kept back from the line of settlements.

Little Crow, believing that Fort Ridgley once taken his path to the Mississippi would be comparatively clear, resolved to make one more desperate attempt at its capture, and on Friday, August 22d, his numbers having been largely augmented, a second and more furious attack was made. At about 1 o'clock p. m., dismounting and leaving their ponies a mile distant, with demoniac yells the savages surrounded the fort and at once commenced a furious musketry fire. The garrison returned the fire with equal vigor and with great effect on the yelling demons, who at first hoped by force of numbers to effect a quick entrance and had exposed themselves by a bold advance. This was soon checked, but from the cover of the slopes their fire was unceasing, while the very prairie seemed alive with those whose heads were clothed with turbans made of grass to conceal their movements. Little Crow's plan in this attack, in case the first dash from all sides proved unsuccessful, was to pour a heavy continuous fire into the fort from every direction, exhausting the garrison as much as possible, and to carry the fort later by assault upon the southwest corner. To this end he collected the greater portion of his forces in that quarter, and, taking possession of the government stables and sutler's store, the fire literally riddled the buildings at that angle. It was found necessary to shell these buildings to dislodge the foe, resulting in their complete destruction by fire. Attempts were made



to fire the fort by means of burning arrows but the roof being damp from recent rains, all efforts to this end were futile. Still in pursuance of the plan of battle, the hail of bullets, the whizzing of arrows and the blood-curdling war-whoops were incessant. From the ravine on the northeast came an especially heavy attack, the object being to divert as far as practicable the defense to this side, and here was some gallant and effective service again performed. Whipple from the northeast corner, protected in every discharge by the hot musketry fire of Gere's detachment and the men of Company C to the left, swept the very grass to it's roots all along the crest of the slope, while McGrew, improving the opportunity, with most conspicuous bravery ran his howitzer out from the north east corner to the very edge of the ravine and delivered several enfilading volleys of canister down along the hillside, practically sweeping the savages from their position.

Now begun the convergence to the southwest, the Indians passing from the opposite side in either direction. In moving around the northwest corner a wide detour was necessary to avoid McGrew's range, but the open prairie rendered the movement plainly apparent. Divining its object, McGrew hastily reported to Jones what was transpiring, and was authorized to bring out the twenty-four pounder, still in park, with which McGrew went into position on the west line of the fort and at the south end of the commissary building. Meanwhile the fire in front of Jones' gun had become so hot and accurate as to splinter almost every lineal foot of timber along the top of his barricades, but he still re-

turned shells at shortest possible range, himself and his gunners most gallantly exposing themselves in this service. During an interval in the fusillade Little Crow was heard urging, in the impassioned oratory of battle, the assault on the position. Jones double charged his piece with canister and reserved his fire; meanwhile McGrew had fired one shot from the twenty-four pounder at the party passing around the northeast, and, training his gun westerly, dropped his second shell at the point where this party had by this time joined the reserve of squaws, ponies and dogs west of the main body. A great stampede resulted; the gun was swung to the left, bringing its line of fire between the two bodies of Indians. Its ponderous reverberations echoed up the valley as though twenty guns had opened, while the frightful explosion of its shells struck terror to the savages and effectually prevented a consolidation of the forces. At this juncture Jones depressed his piece and fired close to the ground, killing and wounding seventeen of the savages of the party who had nerved themselves for the final assault. Completely demoralized by this unexpected slaughter, firing suddenly ceased and the attacking party precipitately withdrew, their hasty retreat attended by bursting shells until they were beyond the range of the guns. Thus, after six hours of continuous blazing conflict, alternately lit up by the flames of burning buildings and darkened by whirling clouds of smoke, terminated the second and last attack.

This year the County Commissioners could not meet at the regular meeting, but instead held the meeting Nov. 5th, at which there were present Wm. H.

Budd, L. F. True, Commissioners, and W. W. Carrington auditor, and transacted only such business as was absolutely necessary.

After the establishment of the fort at Fairmont and the line of stockades, it made a market for any surplus produce raised and aided in making time pass more pleasantly, the settlers felt more secure, and matters began to assume a more cheerful and favorable aspect. Some improvements were made in the Lake House; a chamber was built and a lower floor was put in, and a small addition built on the west side.

On January 6, 1862, the County Commissioners met, present W. H. Budd, L. F. True, J. C. Hudson, and W. W. Carrington, auditor. The following officers qualified: Register of Deeds, J. B. Swearingen; Treasurer, Aaron Smith. There was not much strife to obtain office then. Salaries were too small. And still the organization was kept up and improvements made then as fast as now, when we consider the number of people and that everything was new.

In January the writer took a trip as a scout and guide for a party from Company A, going west to Jackson trying to find a scout by the name of Bill Quean (half-breed). This scout had been sent to see if there were any settlers or Indians at Jackson, as no reports had been received from that section of the country for some time, and the officers feared that he had been killed either by the settlers or Indians. At Fox Lake we found a few trappers, who had quite a large amount of furs. Soon after leaving Fox Lake it began to snow, and the snow covering the trail we had to make our way as best we could without it. When we got to Jackson, or Springfield as it was

called then, we found all the houses but one destroyed and this house we took possession of. After a time we found two of Mr. Thomas's boys who were trapping on the Des Moines River, and learned from them that their families were at Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Those of the other settlers not massacred by the Indians had moved away, the property had been mostly destroyed; there had been a number of people killed here in the outbreak in August. There were three brothers by the name of Olson who had returned and were living about five miles up the Des Moines river, north of Jackson. We learned here that the man we were in search of had left for Madelia. The next morning we started for Madelia by way of Johnson's ford on the Watonwan river. Our road was on the west and north of Cedar Lake, from Jackson to Johnson's ford about twenty miles. At this place was a small station of soldiers. They had quite a roomy stockade made of logs, and there were quite a number of Norwegian settlers close by. We stayed all night at the stockade with the soldiers. The next day we went to Madelia, and there learned that the scout of whom we were in search had gone to St. Paul by way of Mankato. There was nearly a full company of men stationed at Madelia. They appeared to be enjoying themselves, as there was not much danger of Indians in the cold weather and they had nothing else to do. We came back across the country to Fairmont from Madelia by way of Perch Lake and across Jim Creek near H. H. Fowler's house. It took us four days to make the trip. We found no settlers between Madelia and Mr. Fowler's. During this trip we

found that the only depredations, if any, committed by the Indians in this county in '62 was the burning of some of the settlers' buildings on Elm Creek. This was not attributed to the Indians by many of the settlers, but to Philo Morse and one Skinner, the preacher before mentioned, who did not leave the county with the settlers. Some of the buildings were found burned after the settlers returned, either by these parties or the Indians. We had some trouble in crossing the creek on account of the water having been very high and a thick ice had frozen, and when the water had gone down and the ice had settled in the middle, leaving it so high on the sides that we could not get our horses over without cutting a road through the ice or filling in the middle of the creek. There was not much snow until February of this year, and not much for the soldiers to do, as the Indians stayed in the timber and did not venture out on the open prairies much. The soldiers, to pass away the time, got up some entertainments, held them in the old court house, and some dances, and Sundays we had preaching by some of the local preachers. Many of the soldiers were young men, unmarried, and if any of the settlers had young ladies in their homes they were sure to have some of the soldiers visiting them quite often.

The settlers trapped considerable of the time during the winter and spring. There was nothing else for them to do and it was the only source of employment or means of revenue.

About the middle of February, the writer, Henry Tutlock and Burton Rowley went west and north of Jackson, where we built canoes, and were joined by three or four more men by

the name of Clark and a Mr. Delaney, and all went to Heron Lake and trapped until about the time the ice went out of the lake, the middle of April. We lost about fifty of our traps, by the ice breaking by the wind and covering our traps. Mr. Delaney and Mr. Rowley were sent to Fairmont for supplies. They brought us some mail and a very scant supply of provisions. While we were at Heron Lake we heard the firing of guns to the north and west of us. We were a little afraid that it might mean Indians early in the spring, and we started back. After we had gone across the Des Moines river and had got about eight miles this side, not hearing any more firing, we found what we thought would be a good trapping ground, and stopped there, where we learned of the attack by the Indians on the soldiers and settlers at Johnson's Ford. The Indians did not succeed in killing anyone, but did steal some stock from the settlers. Probably it was this same band of Indians who, a couple of days later attacked a company of men further north on the Watonwan who were cutting timber for a stockade; they succeeded in getting their horses away from them. Our party, not knowing what danger there might be from Indians, decided to go back to Fairmont. We therefore sunk our canoes in a big slough near the west line of the town of Jay. When we got to Fairmont we learned that there was a man killed near Fish lake. He was trapping with Mr. John Friend who brought the news to this place: some soldiers went out and brought his body in. They found that he had been scalped, and there were moccasin tracks in the snow around the lakes near where he was found. After this,

as the weather became warm, there was considerable excitement on account of Indians, as they were known to be prowling around in insulated bands, and no one knew when or where they might appear. Those of the soldiers who had horses and did patrol duty were kept very busy scouting and doing patrolling between the stations. After the weather became warmer and the streams could be crossed, the troops under the command of General Sibley, (who was the first governor of the territory) took an active part in the Indian campaign, drove the Indians back and followed them back to the Missouri River. The Indians were kept back by the soldiers this year, and there were no depredations of a general nature committed. Had it not been for an error in the delivery of the dispatches a large number of the Indians would have been caught before they crossed the Missouri river. H. H. Bonney, our present county treasurer, and John W. Gould were with the soldiers in pursuit of the Indians and can give information as to their experience in the Indian war and of the nature and condition of the country at that time.

In this spring of the year Benson C. Hinckle sold his interest in the town plat of Fairmont and the adjoining land, to Moses Clark, of Wisconsin, and went back east. We learned that he traveled around considerably; our last information from him was that he was married and settled down at Matton, Ill. Mr. Hinckle took much interest in promoting the improvements of this county and held several of the county offices, namely: Register of Deeds, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Treasurer, Auditor, County Commissioner; he carried the mail

from Fairmont to Winnebago City. He filled all of these offices creditably and in a competent manner, and was held in respect by the settlers of this county. He was at one time the sole owner of the village of Fairmont. The county court house grounds were bought of him in the spring of 1862.

Company A of the 7th Minnesota Infantry was relieved by Company D of the 9th Regiment Minnesota Volunteers. The Seventh regiment went south, and some of the settlers who volunteered went with them. Isaac Johnson, the father of Edw. Johnson, was one of those who volunteered with this regiment. He died at St. Louis. Company D was the company in which W. H. Swearingen, Mr. Canfield and Henry Youngman of this place had previously enlisted. Capt. Skaro in command.

In May of this year A. N. Fancher, residing in Center Creek, and at one time county surveyor, was married to Miss Amelia Parks, by Rev. J. C. Hudson. Also during this spring the settlers at Fox Lake, Andrew, Lewis and James Tweed and their families, moved to Fairmont to be nearer the protection of the soldiers. Mr. James Tweed was out near his brother's claim near Fox Lake when he saw some horsemen coming in the direction of their house. He took them for Indians and started for Fairmont to give notice and got there before the horsemen, he was afoot. A detachment was sent out to meet the horsemen and it proved to be a company of cavalry out scouting, in command of Sergeant Quinn from Ft. Ridgely.

This year at the outlet of lake George Mr. Aaron Smith built a saw mill. When he got it running we all thought it an immense thing, for we

could get some lumber to help build houses without using a whip-saw. Before this the dwelling houses were made of logs. There had been a saw mill on Elm Creek before, which was run by oxen, but was not much of a success and did not make much lumber. This year also Mr. J. B. Swearingen put in a frame so that they could have a place to live in the upper story of their grist mill, and cut a ditch so as to get the water from the lake to the mill.

Some time during this summer Company D established another post on Elm Creek near where Mr. Frazer lived, that was called Shinniskea which made a protection for the settlers in that vicinity. Very few settlers came into the county during this year, and some left. Fairmont lost three families. Nashville gained more in number than any other town.

June 1st the Board of County Commissioners met. Present: Messrs. Budd, True and Hudson. They settled with the auditor and treasurer and such other business as had to be done. W. W. Carrington was auditor.

A summer school was held in a temporary school building not far from where Emery Stowe's house now is. It was kept for a while in a tent borrowed of the soldiers, and when the soldiers wanted the tent we built a house of logs with brush and hay for a roof. Mrs. I. G. Swearingen taught the summer school for \$10 per month and boarded herself and had a good school; took as much pains and worked as hard as teachers now do for from \$30 to \$50 per month.

This year Mr. Chatfield started a store at East Chain lakes and built a saw mill. There was a post office started at Center Chain and at East

Chain. There was some travel from Blue Earth City by the way of East Chain, Center Chain and Tenhassen to Estherville. At one time this was the best traveled road in the county, and at this time there were more settlers in the southern tier of towns, East Chain, Silver Lake and Tenhassen than in all the rest of the county.

This year the settlers joined with the soldiers to have a 4th of July celebration. Company D of the 9th regiment was stationed at Fairmont this summer. Quite a number had enlisted from Faribault county under command of Lieutenant Walker. They were scattered along from Blue Earth City to Willow Creek in Blue Earth county and they wanted all of their friends here. They built a large bowery in which tables were placed, and another to dance in connected with the old court house, and the people of this county and surrounding counties came prepared to have a good time and something good to eat, and plenty of it. Some of the soldiers had been previously saving of the rations, and there was a special requisition on the commissary department for supplies. The oration was delivered in the grove near where Mr. Wollaston's house now stands; the dance was kept up until the next morning. Capt. Skaro was one of the speakers. The music was furnished by Orrin Rice's celebrated East Chain band. There were a number of settlers from Willow Creek, including Mr. Mack and family, some of whom were afterward murdered by the Indians at their homes on Willow Creek in 1865, mention of which will be made later. There was a large delegation from each place. Among the people who were here from other places we may mention the Darlings.

Kinneys and Macks from Willow Creek; Spencers, Days, Chapels, Lattimers, Millers, Kinneys, Rhoades, Phelps, Johnsons, Coopers, Carltons, Nelsons, Maxwells, Woodwards, Stoddards and Forbes, from other surrounding towns,

It was not an uncommon occurrence for the settlers then to call others neighbors who lived fifteen or twenty miles away and to attend a Fourth of July celebration thirty or forty miles away was not considered too far.

While some of the troops were marching from one stockade to another this year Wm. H. Swearingen had a sun-stroke and was very sick for several days, and has suffered from the effects of that sun-stroke ever since, being at times almost helpless. Many of our readers know him.

After the Fourth of July the people settled down to their regular work once more, attending to their corn and potatoes, and some sorghum; these were the principal crops. There was some wheat, oats and rye raised in some parts of the county. Those who did not have crops went to the eastern part of the state where there was more grain raised and worked in the harvest. None of the new settlers here now have any idea of the hardships and privations of the first settlers at the time of the war, and also during the Indian wars. Many of the fathers and sons had enlisted, and had left only their wives and children to carry on the farm, with now and then some old men and boys to care for them. It was very hard work for the settlers to get along and raise any crops and care for them at the time when they were threatened by massacre by the Indians. Many, from a sense of patriotism, enlisted; some thinking they would stay with the soldiers here near their

homes, but when the change of troops was made they were sent south leaving only the women, who stood by their homes and families and did all possible to keep their claims and endeavor to build up and have a home in this country. Let everyone who reads this join with us in saying that the women of this land endured as much hardship or even more than the men; that their sufferings in the trying time of the rebellion and the Indian wars were greater. For long months they would be unable to hear from their husbands and sons; they knew not whether they were living or dead; they had to provide and care for their families, though during all this time there was hardly any complaining or murmuring over their lot. While they may have felt the hardships they had to endure there was no outward complaining, and I desire to here express my emphatic belief that to the women of this land is entitled as much credit, or more, than to the men in its early history. They proved themselves when tried in the hour of our country's necessity equal to the emergency, and showed themselves capable of managing affairs equal to the men, and I desire to say that in my opinion they have as good a right, and should be entitled to the same rights in relation to their property and the management of it as is accorded the men, and in order to protect that and their individual rights and their families they should have the same right of the ballot as is accorded to the men, and all the other rights given to the men under the laws of the land.

The commissioners held their September meeting and were all present. They raised a tax this year of ten mills on the dollar. As the law was at this



time school superintendents were appointed for each commissioner's district. Those appointed were John Burdick at Fairmont, Seely Shaver at Nevada and W. C. Phipps at Waverly. They voted to give a bounty of one cent apiece for blackbirds and two cents apiece for all gophers killed in the county. This was necessary in order to work or raise any crops. The month of September was quite a busy month, as those who came in late had been away in the eastern part of the state during harvest, had to go and put up hay and watch the blackbirds to prevent their destroying the crop. In order to save the corn from destruction by birds it had to be cut up put in shocks. The ears on the outside of the shocks had to be pulled off to save the corn.

A number of new settlers came into the town of Nashville this fall, among them were Mr. S. Bacon, Mr. Smith and Mr. Hinton. There were also some new settlers at Tenhassen, R. S. Johnson, Norman Johnson, W. W. Wiltzie, Hiram Clark, Wm. Hubbard and others. J. C. Strong and others settled at Center Chain. Geo. Murry and a brother came and took claims on Pierce Lake, where Geo. Murry now lives. Geo. Murray was the first person to be naturalized in the county, in November of this year. Geo. W. Tanner, C. W. Hill, Mr. Rice, Mr. Moore and Geo. Scott settled on East Chain Lakes. Mr. Jehu Hayworth and family settled on land which they bought south of Fairmont, now known as the Lair. Harlow Seeger settled north of Fairmont. They brought a considerable number of cattle with them and came to stay. It took a good deal of work to put up hay for their cattle as it had to be cut with scythes.

There was some sickness throughout the county this year, and one death, that of Mrs. Johnson who had a claim in what is now Ward's addition to the village of Fairmont, embracing the depot grounds, ware houses, etc.

A. M. Bassett and John Allen settled near Twin Lakes. All these settlements were made late in the fall.

The commissioners granted the petition for a county road from the county line in Nashville through Fairmont to Tenhassen. There was a mail route established running from Garden City through Willow Creek, Nashville and Fairmont to Tenhassen. There was also a mail route established from Blue Earth City by East Chain, Center Chain and Tenhassen to Estherville, Iowa. J. C. Hudson and L. F. True were appointed to locate the road and have it surveyed.

In the fall of this year Company D was removed from duty at Fairmont and sent south. Lieutenant Barton with a company of mounted rangers took the place of Company D. Lieutenant Barton took a claim here at the mouth of Center and Lillie Creeks. He was, later Democratic candidate for governor, and only lacked about 2,100 votes of being elected, the nearest approach to the election of a democratic governor since the state has been organized. He was later sheriff of Rice county for a number of years, and was the sheriff of that county at the time of the Northfield bank robbery and the arrest of the Younger brothers, who were convicted and sent to states prison.

The mounted rangers were relieved by company C of the Sixth regiment, in command of Capt. H. S. Bailey who now lives in Jackson where he settled after his return from the service.

They found quite good quarters, and not much work to do in the winter as the hostile Indians had been driven from the state by General Sibley. The entire Sixth regiment had been out with General Sibley during the summer. The company was composed mostly of young men and they were a jolly set of boys who made up in enjoyment during the winter for the hardships endured on the plains in the summer. Their duties consisted mostly of scouting over the country and getting acquainted with the settlers. Several of them found wives from among the settlers' daughters here. As usual the chief point of interest was the fort, where the settlers would congregate for social gatherings and parties.

In 1863 there was reported but 74 persons between the ages of 5 and 21 years in Martin county.

There was very little snow this year, and as we were on the line of travel from the Missouri river points and from Yankton to Mankato where supplies were obtained; the supply trains were carried on wheels; the weather was quite cold. The supply train that had been out to Ft. Thompson under the guard of part of the Sixth regiment, when they got back to Fairmont they brought back with them some half-breed Winnebago Indians. When they arrived it began snowing and they were obliged to stop with the settlers and at the fort and some were obliged to quarter in tents.

On the last day of December 1863 commenced one of the coldest storms ever known in the west, and the first day of January 1864 is on record as being one of the coldest ever known in Minnesota, with cold blasts of snow and a strong northwest wind with cold sleet

which when it struck the face, nipped like fire, and any portion of the face or hands left exposed and turned to the wind would freeze almost instantly. Those settlers who did not have plenty of wood for burning were obliged to burn hay or rails or any other thing they could get as it was impossible to get any distance from the house to get fuel.

The supply train which was here in camp at the time suffered very much from the cold and they came to the writer for some wood to keep them from freezing, and not having any other supply they took and burned his fence, something over three hundred rails. Many were the frozen noses and ears, as one could go only a short distance without freezing. Mr. Jehu Hayworth and John Friend were at work with the soldiers with their teams getting them fuel and other supplies. After the weather moderated the supply train proceeded on to Mankato and St. Paul and Mr. Hayworth and Mr. Friend went with them as far as Winnebago City to assist in getting part of their goods through.

This storm resulted in the loss of a great many cattle to the settlers who were driven before it, drifted in and frozen. The settlers themselves suffered great hardships on account of their barns being merely straw sheds, their houses made of logs or dug-outs and roofs covered with shakes and in some instances with dirt. Wherever there was an opening the snow would penetrate and in some instances a large amount came in through the roofs. There are a number living here now who can vouch for the statement that at times as much as six inches of snow would be blown in through the roofs in one night. If any of our read-

ers do not know what shakes are we will state they are substitutes for shingles split out of logs and formed a roof without either shingles or boards, being about three feet long.

The settlement of the county, the establishment of wind-breaks the setting out of groves as well as the cultivation of the land, has affected a climatic change. We don't have the extreme storms of the early settlement. The weather continued cold for some time with considerable storms. The commissioners met for transaction of the county business in January. The board was composed of three commissioners, namely: Wm. H. Budd, L. F. True and J. C. Hudson; W. W. Currington, county auditor and Smith, treasurer. Wm. H. Budd received the appointment of Clerk of Court. The committee who had been previously appointed to report on state road from Fairmont to Garden City through the towns of Rutland, Center Creek, Nashville and by the way of Willow Creek reported favorably and the petition for the establishment of the road was granted. On the 7th day of January, Moses Clark, who then owned the town site sold the same to Thomas G. Eggleston who resided in the State of Wisconsin. Mr. Eggleston took the claim adjoining the town site on the east, comprising the land now owned by O. C. Gould north of the fair grounds and Young's addition to the Village of Fairmont and the 80 of land east of the fair grounds. He never came here to live and all the help he ever gave the town was to build a shanty on this land and then left. The early part of this winter myself and others were in the west part of the county and lived in a tent until the tent became uninhabit-

able on account of wind and snow, when we moved into a house or shanty formerly owned by Andrew Tweed near Fox Lake. We were catching fur then. It was our sole means of support as it was nearly of all the people of the county. We sometimes hear some of the younger settlers, what some of the older settlers called "dudes," speak of the old settlement as being the "rat age." It was the age that tried the courage and fortitude of the people of this county. If this county would have had to wait until some of these, who speak so slightly of the old settlers, would brave one hundredth part of what the first settlers endured, it would never have been settled. President Lincoln in February of this year made a call for volunteers for the war of the Rebellion there were thirteen men to be raised from this county, if not volunteers, they would be subject to draft. Some advised that the county offer a bounty and thus raise the number, others opposed this as they did not wish to incur any indebtedness to the county, they believed that the county could get along without them better than they could afford to have a large debt settled upon it. They possessed some patriotism and volunteered their services to the Government. The following are the names: W. H. Budd, John Burdick, I. G. Swearingen, Silas Smith, Edger Keise, C. N. Bardwell, Milo Whittcomb and Enos Whitcomb from Fairmont. From Tenhassen, Rodney Johnson, Cornelius Personius, James N. Rice, Wm. Rice, W. W. Wiltse, Wm. Hubbard and Hiram Clark.

Others enlisted later of which we will make mention in due time. By these enlistments our number was filled. We enlisted in the Sixth Regi-



ment, Company C, Captain Bailey's company which was stationed here. We were ordered to report at Fort Snelling for examination and mustering and when we arrived at Fort Snelling other counties who were trying to hire volunteers to avoid a draft made liberal offers to have us credited to their counties but to the honor and credit of all, the offer was refused. Our enlistment was about the 20th day of February, 1864. We were examined at Fort Snelling much in a manner that a pugilist would be to see if he was sound in physical condition. From five to twenty men would be put into a room, ordered to take off their clothing, then to stand on one foot and give three hops, three jumps, backwards, forwards, hold up your hands, hold your breath for some time, stand thumping in the ribs with the doctor's fists and some after being put through this course of exercise with their chests used as drums and ribs punched, were so pleased that after they got through and though there was something they hadn't required of them to do, so they stood on their heads. We all passed the first examination but on the second, two of the men who went from here, Silas Smith and J. N. Rice, failed and were sent to the convalescent camp. We were kept at Fort Snelling three or four weeks when we were allowed to come back to Fairmont and join our company, to which we were assigned as per our request, in order to be nearer our families while this company was stationed here.

There was an effort made at the session of the legislature in 1864 to take off the one tier of townships from the east side of this county and attach to Faribault county, the object being in

the interest of Winnebago City to make that the county seat, as its location in the northwest part of Faribault county didn't give it strength enough. While at Fort Snelling, I saw Alex Lattimer who was the state senator from this district, in opposition to this move. The bill had already passed the House. Mr. Lattimer promised to oppose the bill in the Senate which promise he kept and killed the bill. C. W. Hill had also been by the county sent to St. Paul to oppose the passage. Martin county to ought hold in grateful remembrance Senator Lattimer for his action in this matter, for certainly he is entitled to great credit for his action. Fairmont would not now be near the center of the county and the county would have lost some of its best townships had the bill passed.

On our return to Fairmont Capt. Bailey, now Major Bailey, kindly gave us some time to arrange our business and assist in preparing our families for our absence as we were expected soon to go south, which time was improved by the volunteers in fixing up their buildings and doing all they could to leave their families as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

About this time it began to be rumored that there would be a wedding and soon it followed on the 31st day of March, 1864, Wm. H. Budd and Lydia Swearingen being the parties. She was the daughter of John B. and Jane Swearingen. This wedding was attended by the soldiers stationed here, in full uniform and on parade and at the conclusion of the ceremony, gave a military salute. I always felt that it was quite an honor as it was evidently the first and only wedding in the

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This spring was quite fine, some rain in March and April. Grain was sown in April and looked quite well. May and June were dry and the soldiers and settlers had a good many enjoyable times. The most that the soldiers had to do was to keep up their lines of communication between here and Fort Ridgley, do scout duty and they had plenty of time for hunting and fishing. As this regiment was enlisted entirely from this state a great many people came from different parts to see their acquaintances that were stationed here. The homestead law went into effect this spring. By its provisions any one taking and moving on to and cultivating one hundred and sixty acres of land for five years was entitled to a deed of the same. This law brought on a good many settlers from all over Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and Michigan sending the most. In April of this year the county commissioners in session granted a petition from the inhabitants of what is now the township of Nashville, setting it off as an election district and calling it Nashville. They set the time of the first election for town officers to be held on the first Tuesday of May, 1864 at the house of A. M. Nash, in honor of whom the town name was selected. A. N. Fancher, now of Center Creek, was appointed county surveyor for that year. The election precinct called

Waverly not having any qualified officers, the commissioners appointed an election to be held at the house of H. S. True on the first Tuesday in May, 1864. W. W. Carrington who owned the property now comprising the fair grounds and Ward's central addition and lived in the building that was a part of the old Lake House before it was added to put in some goods and merchandise to sell and also kept a hotel. This was a log house about 16 by 20 with a sort of an L on the back side about 12 by 14 and here was kept the post office, hotel, store, county auditor's office, register of deed's office, clerk of court's office and office of the justice of the peace. In the case of the hotel it inculcated habits of "early to bed" it was the first ones to bed that had any, the late ones set up all night or laid on the floor. In the summer E. P. Carleton formed a partnership with Mr. Carrington in the store and James Swearingen also kept a hotel in the house owned by Wm. Budd, being the log house torn down by F. F. Gleason Mr. Budd's family living in one part. This was also a small house but people were not so exclusive then as now and didn't require as much room. In May or June a great number of settlers came into different parts of the county A. J. Brown, Gaylord Brown, W. W. Wilsey and James Decker and some others in Lake Belt and Tenhassen, in Silver Lake; Alison Faucher, J. A. Mauley, A. M. Patchin, Mr. Stevens, H. S. Woods and a number of others. This year a school was kept in Fairmont in a little board shanty without a floor with Laura H. Smith as teacher. Three months school. The children used to tell how the gophers would run around on the ground used for a

floor and that they had to keep good watch of their dinner pails.

In April of this year A. L. Ward came here and took his homestead across the road from where he now lives, being a single man he boarded with James Swearingen. His health was very poor at first, he weighed less than a hundred pounds. The air of Minnesota appeared to agree with him and he began to work and in a short time had some improvements on his claim and when not at work there was not above working for the other settlers. When our regiment was ordered south we left our business in his charge.

In May Capt. Bailey got orders to have his men ready to leave on short notice for Fort Snelling. It caused considerable excitement among the soldiers, those who had families living here not liking to leave them, those who were single or did not reside here wanting to go south. Before the soldiers left Stephan Allen and Miss Rosana Swearingen were married by Rev. J. C. Strong.

The 6th Minnesota Regiment, Company C, was relieved from duty here by Capt. Barton. Our Company marched on the 9th of June of this year to march on foot to Fort Snelling by way of Winnebago, Waseca and Faribault—as we were to go south and if compelled to make the entire distance on foot, would be behind time. teams met us at Faribault and took us to the fort. We remained there a few days completing the organizations and arrangements and then we went to Helena, Arkansas, and took active part in the War of the Rebellion until its close. Capt. Barton's Company remained at Fairmont only a part of the summer when they were relieved by a detachment of cavalry.



In the summer of 1864 the homestead law brought a great many settlers to this county. The townships of what are now Center Creek, Pleasant Prairie, Rolling Green, Fraser, Rutland, Westford, Tenhassen, Lake Belt and part of Manyaska got most of them. Among some of those which our people at the present time may know were Mr. Older, Mr. Dibble and Abner Handy after whom the village of Granada, formerly called Handy was named, settled in Center Creek. In Pleasant Prairie the only one now remaining of the settlers of that year is G. W. Garrison. I. F. Bickford of Westford, later county commissioner, Charles Dana, Fairmont, also later county commissioner, and Amasa Bowen of Rutland, who for a number of years was register of deeds. Mr. George Tanner and family came to the county in this year and in the winter of 1865 bought the homestead of Aaron Smith which is now a part of Lake George addition to this place. Mr. Tanner now lives in Fairmont has two sons J. K. and S. D. Tanner among our prominent business men and his daughter Emeline one of our prominent physicians. His son George Tanner was interested in one of our first newspapers.

Mr. Chatfield built a saw mill this year in East Chain, also a small store was established there by Mr. Chatfield and Wm. Mixer had a sod blacksmith shop near there, then the only one in the county. There was a blacksmith shop also started in Fairmont in the early winter of 1864 and '65 by Abner Handy.

The County Commissioners held a meeting on September 20, 1864, at which time in a petition of the inhabitants of the town No. 102 now Pleasant

Prairie and the south half of town No. 103, now part of Center Creek, a voting precinct was established and called "York." The first election was held at the house of Samuel Gordon on the second Tuesday in October. Supervisors elected, A. N. Faucher, L. B. Huntington and Moses Ayerea, Clerk C. A. Hunt. At this election the Commissioners appropriated two hundred dollars for repairing county buildings. The chairman of the board let the contract.

The summer of 1864 was an extremely dry one, the channels between the lakes were dry and Lake Sisseton was lower than at the present time. The crops were quite poor, the drought affected them. Root crops, potatoes etc., not yielding very well. The new settlers not being acquainted with prairie fires sustained considerable loss to hay and in some instances to their buildings by fires. One of the most terrific fires and one that would be impossible at this time or since then to have occurred started one Sunday with the wind in the north and run along the east line of the county. At night the wind changed to the south and east and the fire was driven in an immense body of flame through the county. As there were no roads or fire breaks to stop it those who had not protected their stacks, lost their hay and the sloughs being so dry in some instances were burned to quite a depth the fire burning in the turf for quite a while making it dangerous to go into the sloughs as in one case a party living in the north part of the county drove his team where they broke through the crust and before he could get them out one horse was burned so it died.

An election was held in 1864 for

county officers and it was the first time in which party lines were drawn. At a convention called the Democrats and Republicans participated. Some of those who failed to get nominations called a straight Republican convention. There were only three voting precincts and less than two hundred votes polled. The result was there were members from both parties elected as the people thought there were not enough to draw party lines. The next year they drew the party lines and the Republicans were successful.

In the summer of 1864 the first Sunday School was established in the county. It was held in the old court house. The children came from long distances and all the members of different churches then acted as one, there were no divisions. Baptists, Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians all worshipping at the same altar. A. L. Ward was elected Superintendent of the school, it was very successful and had a good attendance. At intervals meetings would be held at different places in the county. At Chain Lake Center there was quite a settlement of ministers, Rev. J. C. Strong, college graduate, now at Seattle, Rev. A. C. Hand, a prominent Wesleyan minister, Rev. J. C. Hudson, Rev. Robinson and some other minister, whose name we have forgotten, who had all settled close together. The settlements of the county during this year were made close to the timber as could be on account of fuel and building purposes. The east part of the county, on account of its proximity to the Blue Earth River, was a favorite place. Tenhassen, Silver Lake and East Chain at one time held half of the settlements of the county.

During the summer there were some Indian depredations committed on Willow Creek. Those here who could leave their families went to work in the harvest fields in the east part of the state. While there a report of an uprising of the Indians reached them and many hurried home to their families to find the reports false as to a general uprising, only now and then a skulker had worked in and done some damage, stolen some horses etc.

The great supply route from Sioux City and Yankton was through here to Mankato. Hedges & Co. of Sioux City had a large number of ox teams engaged in hauling supplies, as many as five yoke of oxen to a wagon and a train of ten to twelve wagons in a procession. Word was brought to Fairmont that some trappers had found a man who had evidently been murdered near Twin Lakes and there was some suspicion of some of the settlers. The County Commissioners being in session, appointed A. L. Ward coroner, instructed him to impanel a jury and hold an inquest, the following jury were impaneled: James Swearingen, W. W. Carrington, Giles Bartholomew, E. B. Hall, Henry Johnson, Peter Dugaw who left Fairmont and went to Fox Lake where they staid all night in a trapper's shanty about eight by ten in size filled with furs and lived on bread, molasses and coffee. They went to where the body was found in a slough, which has since been called "dead man's slough." The body had evidently been thrown in when there was water, as it was partially covered. The dry weather had evaporated the water and the prairie fires burning the grass had left the body exposed so that it was discovered. An account book and book of re-

cords were found near the body. There was no money. The record disclosed the fact that his name was Charles White, that he lived at Yankton, Dakota, that he ran a store and was engaged in the transportation business, and that he with a train of teams was on his way to Mankato. When near Twin Lake he left the teams with his horse, he being on horse back, for the purpose of looking out a shorter route and that was the last seen or heard of him by the teamsters. They went on to Mankato waited a long time for him and on his not arriving they were frightened back by Mankato parties. It was nearly two months after his disappearance before the finding of his body. He had a large amount of money with him, sufficient to pay for the supplies that he was to buy. His horse which was a valuable one was never found or heard from. There was the mark of a bullet or some other instrument through the side of his head but as the body was badly decayed it was hard to fully determine the cause of his death. The correspondence with his wife disclosed the fact that he was a man of education and means and engaged in a prosperous business but there appeared to be a lack of interest evidenced by her as neither she nor anyone representing her ever came to make inquiries or requests that the body be sent to Yankton. He was buried near where he was found, murdered by some one, but who, it was not known. The first murder committed in the county. His grave it would be impossible to find, the last being now cultivated and all were obliterated.

There were two marriages in the county this year, James S. Hudson

and Miss Eliza Comstock October 31st. and on November 10th Jerome B. Shepard and Miss Distin Rowley. The county commissioners held their annual meeting in the fall; present, E. P. Carleton, Chester Bardwell and J. C. Hudson. L. F. True, one of the previous commissioners had enlisted in the army. A tax levy was made to meet current expenses, and the court house was arranged to be completed, it never having been plastered inside. Money was not very plenty in the treasury, and a loan was made of Aaron Smith for the purpose of getting a stove for the court house, for which he was allowed 12 per cent interest. The county auditor was instructed to notify the county officers that on and after the first day of January 1865 they must hold their offices at the county seat and in the court house, which they did. One man would represent a number of offices, that is, be deputy for a number. On December 6th Thomas G. Eggleston sold his interest in the Fairmont Village plat to Aaron Smith. Mr. Smith was the party who owned what is now the Lake George addition and sold the same to George Tanner. Mr. Smith had a resurvey made of a part of the then platted portion and made some changes from the original plat which has caused considerable misunderstanding by other surveyors. The original survey and plat was some farther south and on the east side of the county grounds, there was an alley. Mr. Smith took up this alley and added 66 feet, and made what is now Main street. This survey also made a change in the south side of the plat of about 12 feet. In November of this year, A. L. Ward bought out the store of Carrington & Carleton

which was in the old Lake House. The size of the space occupied was five feet wide, twelve feet long and run up to the ceiling about eight feet, being on the south side of the then Lake House. The same room was also occupied as county offices, hotel and other general purposes. Abner Handy built a blacksmith shop near the corner of Blue Earth and North Avenues. Aaron Smith had previously built a building down near the dam where the mill was which was not completed. There was a school kept three months of this year by Laura H. Smith in the north part of the house owned by Wm. Budd near the present residence of Mrs. Gleason; wages paid \$16.00 per month. Miss Smith boarded herself and traveled nearly one mile. There were a number of new settlers came into what is now Rolling Green township in the fall of 1864. Henry Van Fleet, Peter Dugaw, Thomas Curtiss and Richard Jones. Richard Jones is the only one living there now. Capt. Bird came this fall, and bought a claim where his farm now is on the west side of Hall lake, and let a contract to Richard James to build a house to be ready when he came with his family the next spring. Mr. Giles Bartholomew purchased the claim where the depot and Ward's central addition now are. In the early part of January, 1865, R. M. Ward came to Fairmont and formed a partnership in the mercantile business with A. L. Ward under the firm name of A. L. & R. M. Ward. They bought the frame building of Mr. Smith and moved it to where it now stands, it being the building on the west side of Main street, and the farthest south, next to the Bullard House. They bought the lot of Aaron Smith for \$25.00. This

building had been enlarged somewhat by building onto the rear. While this building was being completed, the business was carried on at the before mentioned Lake House; this was the beginning of the present large business of the Ward & Cadwell Company. R. M. Ward bought the claim across the lake from Fairmont of Aaron Andrews; Andrews then buying later in the spring the claim of W. W. Carrington which is now Ward's central addition and included the old Lake House property. In the winter there was a severe storm came up late in the afternoon, and some settlers coming from the Blue Earth river loaded with wood got lost a short distance from home and one, Dibble, perished and was found on the creek bottom west of A. N. Fancher's. Commissioners met in January of this year. Present: J. C. Hudson, E. P. Carlton and I. F. Bickford. Application was made for aid by some families that came here during the late fall, and were without money. Doctor Denton was appointed county physician for the poor people of the county at this meeting. Hosea S. True was appointed sheriff, the bonds of the officers were approved. The weather was generally favorable this year, not much snow, and what did fall was blown into drifts, and none lay on the ground to any depth until March. This year was the first real litigation. It was through Samuel Gorden, who formerly lived in what was the precinct of York and who afterward moved to Kansas. He was very litigious and kept his neighbors in a quarrel. It is supposed he was killed by a party with whom he was fighting a law suit in Kansas.

There lived here in a shanty near



the court house a family of what was supposed to be a widow woman and four children. They had been working for the soldiers, and appeared to be very industrious. In February of this year a soldier on leave of absence came and claimed to be the husband of this woman, which she did not deny. He brought an order from the commissioners of Waseca county, stating that he was trusty and capable of taking care of his family, and requested that the children be delivered to him. This order bore the seal of the officials of that county. On his arrival war was declared between himself and wife. Mr. Whitcombe had brought a team with him ready to move his family, and quite a little crowd of our people gathered to see the progress of the battle—not desiring to take any part in the same, but as witnesses. Mrs. Whitcombe had barricaded the building, but Whitcombe broke down the door, and attempted to scale the walls, but was met with hot water, and retreated until the hot water was exhausted, and then rushed in, and came near being brained by the woman with an axe. At this point of the game some of our citizens interfered to prevent bloodshed, but to no avail, as Whitcomb succeeded in getting the children and loading them into the wagon, and then driving off with the children yelling and pulling his hair and throwing his hat into the snow, and as the party could be seen, you could hear the yells of the children. Mrs. Whitcombe then caused the arrest of the witnesses on the ground of having assisted in kidnapping her children. There were 14 arrests made as nearly the entire settlement were witnesses. They demanded separate trials and were taken from one justice

to another all over the county. Twelve of them having been cleared by other justices, the remaining two took a change of venue and were sent to justice Doolittle in the town of Nashville. When they got there, they found that Doolittle had enlisted in the army three months previous and was at that time in the South. That ended the litigation in that respect, and Mrs. Whitcombe went back to her home in Waseca.

In the early part of 1865 a number of enlistments were made from this county; among them were Jehu Heyworth, Samuel Carver, A. W. Young, J. S. Hudson, George Murray, Silas Conley, Frank Park, George Scott and some others whose names we do not now call to mind. The older settlements were paying large bounties for what was known at that time as substitutes, and to the credit of Martin county under these circumstances we make mention of the fact that no drafted men were enrolled from this county; every able-bodied man being in the service, and that at a time when the government was keeping soldiers here for the protection of the families of those who were in the South fighting for the maintenance of the Union from a more merciless foe than Southern rebels.

We have forgotten to mention that in the fall of 1864, a public speaker of great force made three speeches in the county. Like all great statesmen, the speeches were the same in each place, not forgetting to wipe his face or take a drink of water at the specified time. He attracted a certain class of settlers very largely, and his reception was so flattering that he went back and brought a wife here. They rented the

Lake House of Mr. Carrington, and kept boarders for awhile. This party was Galliton Brown, of whom mention will be made later on as auditor of this county. He also claimed to be an attorney. His first consultation here was of a laughable nature. It appeared that a settler living close by disagreed with his wife about the time to wean the baby. He insisted that it was time, and she claimed that it was not, and the man being the stronger, took the baby and controlled it. The wife listening to its cries grew distracted in the night and went in search of Brown. She found him in Lake House sleeping in the same room where there were three other married couples sleeping. She wakes him and tells him her pitiful story and invoked the aid of the law to compel her husband to allow her to further nourish the baby, and she was so persistent that she would not leave until Mr. Brown had promised to come up in the morning and render her assistance.

There was a jolly class of boarders at the Lake House that winter. The fare consisted of potatoes, coffee, bread, molasses and beef for breakfast; beef, bread, molasses, coffee and potatoes for dinner; and molasses, coffee and bread for supper until the beef was all gone. There was no sickness; all claimed to be healthy and enjoyed the fare. Aaron Andrews having purchased the claim of Mr. Carrington, moved here in the spring and took possession of the Lake House. Mr. Carrington going back to Wisconsin. W. W. Carrington was a man of more than ordinary ability, of good habits and character. Many new settlers were under obligations to him for favors received. His house was a rallying point for all the needy. His

unpaid accounts for goods trusted was the reason of his having to abandon the store and sell out his claim. John Boyce, now of Rutland Township, came here in that year and assisted the Ward boys in the store. There was some little strife on election and one of the residents called another a name not relished and the other, not being able to reach him in any other way, grabbed an old fashioned conical inkstand with the stopper in and threw it and hit the man who called the other one a name and quieted him. There being no stopper in the stand, as it was grabbed and he threw his arm back, the ink squirted out and flew all over the face and shirt bosom of Galliton Brown who was the only well dressed man with a white shirt in the crowd. Brown took out his handkerchief to wipe it off, and only spread it all over his face. As the crowd outside came rushing around to find what was the matter, the man who threw the ink stand said "You ought to be ashamed of yourself, Mr. Brown, to handle ink in that way, or try to get up a quarrel" and as the appearances were against Brown he hard work to convince those who did not see the transaction that he was not the man who had the misunderstanding, and those who did see it thought it was a joke sufficient to claim that it was Brown. As the party who was hit made threats of prosecution, the other party caused complaint to be made and a fine was inflicted which was paid into the county treasury to be used in support of the public schools—the first fine on record in this county. We don't want to mention any names, but as A. L. Ward was there in the room at the time, if any of our readers wish to know and will ask him, he might tell



them if he would. This occurred at the township election.

In 1865 a party who was called Chaplain Conwell made a business of taking what was known as soldiers homestead filings on land. He is supposed to have made a good thing out of it, as it is said that in addition to the regular land office fees which they had to pay, he charged the soldiers \$7.00 for each tract, as he claimed to visit the land and make personal selection. He did go to Winnebago City to the land office there and look over the government maps and get a list of lands on which he could make filings. Under the law the soldiers had six months time from the date of the expiration of their service as nearly all the government land was filed on. Previous to the grant and selection of the Railroad Company of the donation to them by the government of all land in odd numbered sections then unoccupied in the county, the Chaplain made selection of any government lands. After the withdrawal of land by the filing of the Railroad Company, he was confined to selections of land in even numbered sections. It is estimated that he located in this county alone 2000 soldier's homesteads, very few of which were ever occupied or the parties ever came near. Some way the Chaplain knew how to get their money, and talked well, and it being a good opportunity for them to get a home, it took well. But when they were out of the service and thought of tearing up and leaving their friends to go to a new country it was another thing. Some came; W. P. and S. Hill were among those who came. The officers of the Fifth Michigan regiment all filed, among them being Gen. Outcheon, now one of

Michigan's most prominent politicians; Col. Lounsbury, Dr. O. P. Chubb, Chaplain S. S. Hunting and the other officers. Those whom we have mentioned are the only ones who ever came here. In April of this year Dr. Chubb came to look the land over, being delegated and sent by the other officers. His claim was near Timber Lake. The doctor was so favorably impressed with the country that while here he purchased of Aaron Smith that portion of Fairmont then platted or held for plat. As the war was not then ended and as these parties did not intend to make any settlement until after that time, there was nothing done by them towards any improvements. Dr. Chubb returned and completed his service in the army. The filings on these lands were an injury to the settlement of the county in this; it withdrew and took from the reach of actual settlers at that time land that they might have taken. It was a benefit in this; the odd numbered sections filed on would have gone to the Railroad Company under their grant if they had not previously been filed on. As the law was then understood and decisions made by the government, they were allowed to take the same and on the expiration of the time in which these soldiers were allowed by law to make settlement, and their not doing so, the Company caused notices of trial to be made and on proof of no settlement the entries were cancelled and the land reverted to the R. R. Co. Later these decisions were modified, the land department holding that the terms of the grant gave the Company only the land in the odd numbered sections which at that time was government land, that land filed on and uncancell-

ed at the time of grant was not government land within the meaning of the act. This threw considerable land on the market which was fast taken up by actual settlers during the 15 years and resulted in settlers getting claim under the homestead, preemption and timber claim. After the rail road was built the Company had to part with a good many thousand acres of land they thought they owned when the department made the filings.

There was an effort made by parties who claimed to have inside information to defraud and take away the land of settlers who had bought of the Railroad Company; what the Railroad Company and the settlers supposed to be Railroad land, but which under subsequent rulings of the land department was called government land. The department promptly squelched this by deciding that land really occupied by a party or purchased by him, should have the right to complete his title by paying the government price for the land.

In the spring of 1865 Hosea S. True resigned the office of sheriff and Richard James was appointed to fill the vacancy; at the same meeting A. Fancher was appointed surveyor. The first relief given by the county for the support of the poor appears this year to have been rendered in the shape of temporary relief to a party heretofore mentioned, Mrs. Whitcombe, and we believe that the county aided her in funds to return to her home in Waseca. In the spring of this year, Aaron Smith who had sold his claim to the Michigan Company resigned the office of county treasurer and removed near to Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Aaron Andrews was appointed in his place. Mr. Smith built the

first water mill in this county, it being located where the dam at the foot of Lake George now is. He had a large family; one of his sons, Levinton Smith held the office of register of deeds; Harvey Smith was deputy sheriff, and Mr. Smith was justice of the peace and member of the township board. Levinton Smith went with him and resigned the office of register of deeds and R. M. Ward was appointed in his place. Later W. W. Carrington who held the office of county auditor removed from this county, and A. L. Ward was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. E. P. Carleton who was one of the commissioners went with Mr. Smith's people, and bought land in Webster county, Iowa. There was a school kept this summer, the teacher being Miss Mary A. Tanner. There were three months school, and the salary paid was \$15.00 per month.

In 1864 the government put up a large amount of hay, it being the intention to keep a company of cavalry here during the winter. The hay was not used as only a few soldiers were kept here, and although the settlers wanted it quite badly, there was so much red tape about it that no authority could be had to make the sale or purchase, and the hay was never sold, but in some way it disappeared. Some of the soldiers who were here at that time engaged in labor for themselves. Benj. Franklin, who our people will remember as being the man without hands or legs, that came back here in 1892-3 and started a summer resort at Silver Lake was one of the soldiers here at that time and lost his arms and legs by being frozen the next winter while on a trip in the bad lands, Dakota.

Brackett's battalion went through here in the early spring of this year on their way to the Missouri river to go from there in boats to join General Sully in his expedition against the Indians. They were kept here two days by a bad storm and camped in the timber then owned by W. H. Budd near where he and Percy Wollaston now live. The storm was quite severe and they burned up considerable timber, rails, etc., for Mr. Budd and made quite a requisition on the people for supplies. In the spring of this year a family by the name of Jewett living on the Blue Earth river, two miles east of Garden City, were murdered. The work was supposed to have been done by Indians, some of the family were found in the house and some outside. The indications were that preparations were being made for breakfast, as the table was set and the cooking utensils showed that a meal was nearly if not quite prepared. There was nothing particularly disturbed, sounds of firing of guns had been heard early in the morning by other settlers. To our best information it has never yet been clearly established whether the murderous work was done by Indians or not. At that time it was unquestioned, but later developments caused some doubts to arise.

This caused great excitement; many claiming to have seen the Indians skulking in the timber at different points on different days. Some settlers from this county had occasion to visit Mankato three days after the murder, came home on the east side of the river for the purpose of looking over the ground where the murder was committed. They came on the east side of the Blue Earth river, and until near Jackson Lake no settlers were

seen. When they reached Shelbyville where a hotel was kept, it was after dusk, and the landlord would not allow any lights to be used in the house or taken to the barn, as he said that Indians had been seen in the timber that day, and that men had been driven out of the timber by the Indians. We believe these were all false reports, but they also reached this county. A party living on Elm Creek came to town and told the people here that he had seen Indians up there, and that he had the day before captured one and taken him to the soldiers at Willow Creek and that this Indian had told the soldiers that the woods were full of them. The people believed this to be true, and became very much excited. Some of them came to the town and arranged for a set of signals, and some of them came over and stayed during the night. The older settlers who knew this man told the people that they believed it was all a lie, but to no effect until the next day when they went up to Elm Creek and found that no Indians had been seen, neither had this party captured one and taken him to the soldiers as he had reported. Home guards were formed all through this part of the state. This county had two companies. Mr. Chatfield, of whom mention has previously been made as having a store at East Chain and building a mill there, belonged to one company, and on a scouting expedition in search of Indians, in taking a gun from the wagon, accidentally received a wound that caused his death. In the death of Mr. Chatfield that settlement lost a public spirited citizen and the town of East Chain one who if he had lived might have placed it on an equal footing with Fairmont,

as he had considerable means, and had started in to build up a little village. During this excitement, the Indians being able to drop in commit murders or other depredations and not be tracked and none caught or killed as they were able to hide in the timber or in the sloughs, Major Evans of Garden City who was a relative of the Jewetts and a prominent citizen of Blue Earth county organized the counties of Nicollet, Brown, Blue Earth, Watonwan and Martin and got their commissioners to meet and place at his disposal funds for the purchase of blood hounds to be used in tracking Indians should they commit further depredations. At the unanimous request of the people the commissioners of this county negotiated their orders for \$300 for the purpose, which they turned over to Major Evans, who went to Washington and there procured further aid from the government and also their aid in procuring some southern blood hounds. He was gone about six weeks, and returned to Mankato with a large pack of hounds. By this time the excitement had somewhat subsided and the people who thought themselves in no immediate danger, were not inclined to take any more of the hounds than were necessary. The commissioners instructed A. L. Ward to go to Mankato to make a selection of the hounds, and we see from the commissioners records that he was gone four days and returned with three hounds and \$41.88 of the \$300 advanced for the purpose. We cannot say whether or not the action taken by the settlers in procuring these hounds was the means of stopping the depredations, but none were committed after that. The soldiers here had some rare sport with

the hounds of this county. They would go out and make a circuitous route and return to the fort, and then the dogs would be let loose, and they would take the trail and run the soldiers to the fort every time. While the soldiers were here, they took charge of them, but later they were kept by the county until the next year when the treaty of peace with the Indians made it unnecessary to keep them longer and they were sold at auction. This county was indebted to these dogs for some very savage watch dogs which were bred by these hounds and the settlers dogs. In the spring of 1865 Capt. Bird came here with his family and his father and mother. George M. and James W. Bird came later in the fall. The summer of 1865 was employed by the settlers in building houses and making necessary improvements to live during the winter. A fourth of July celebration was held this year which was largely attended. The speech was made by W. D. Storey of Faribault county, who came here to live later, and on the resignation of A. L. Ward as county auditor, he was appointed to fill the vacancy. The war now being over, the soldiers who went from here began to return, among them being W. H. Budd, I. G. Swearingen, John W. Burdick, Edgar Kise, C. N. Bardwell, W. Wiltale, H. Clark, B. Johnson, C. Personius, Milo Whitcomb and Wm. Rice and others. Enos Whitcomb died at Helena, Ark., and William Bird bought the claim of E. P. Carleton on the west side of Budd lake.

In our last letter the list was not complete of those who enlisted from this county and belonged to other regiments than that in which we served. Isaac Johnson was with the 7th; Wm. H. Swearingen, Henry Youngman, James Canfield and Daniel Canfield were with the 9th; James S. Hudson, George M. Scott, A. W. Young, L. F. True, Samuel Carver, George Murray, L. F. Brainerd, H. Bennett, Jehu Hayworth, Frank Parks and J. Manley belonged to regiments of which we do not remember the names. There were killed in battle or died in the south of exposure and sickness. Isaac Johnson, Daniel Canfield, Enos Whitcomb, and James S. Hudson; James Canfield returned to his relatives near Shakopee, Minn., where he died of sickness contracted in the service. The others at the close of the war returned home and again became citizens and tried to work for the interests of the county, and make themselves a home. Our readers will recognize many of the names in the present residents of the county. There was a great deal of grain sowed in the county this year, and a county fair was held at the stockade. When we returned home in the month of August, we found there had been considerable change made among the settlers. Those who were here when we went away had gone and others had come to take their places. In and around Fairmont there were but few here when we returned who were here when we left. In the fall of 1865 there was a republican convention called, in which there were not offices enough to supply all the candidates; there was a bolted ticket put up, which was mostly elected; this was the first political contest in the county. The com-

missioners had their winter meeting, but no business of any importance was transacted, only routine matters. It appears that the residents of township 102, range 29, had a petition which was granted for the establishment of a town to be called South Creek. There was a number of efforts made before this town was finally organized as Pleasant Prairie. There were four marriages this fall, W. H. Emery to Miss E. L. Bardwell; W. H. Swearingen to Miss C. H. Page; J. R. Friend to Miss A. Warner; and E. V. Comstock to Miss F. H. Hudson; two of them, we believe, being soldier boys that had returned from service. This fall Aaron Andrews built an addition, being the frame part that was built on to the Lake House. It was thought to be a large thing and to make a nice hotel. The whole building was about 16 feet wide by about 40 feet long and a story and a half high. It was a rallying place for all parties and had a large custom. There was a great deal of travel through the county then as it was on the direct road to Sioux City, Estherville, Spirit Lake and other Iowa points from Mankato.

There were a number of new settlers in the county this fall, who mostly built sod houses and barns to shelter themselves. I am not sure whether or not a school was kept this year, but am quite certain there was none during the winter, John Ellsbury and a man by the name of Brownell had a blacksmith shop this winter in the building formerly occupied by the Whitcomb family near where M. E. L. Shanks' residence is. Charcoal was a scarce article, but some was burned at Fox Lake, on the island, and they went out to get it, but were obliged to make a long circuit around



on account of the deep snow. Major Brackett returned through here some time in the winter with his command from their excursion up the river against hostile Indians. The weather had not been very cold or stormy up to the first of January, 1865, but there was good sleighing. There was a dance in the court house hall on New Year's evening, and supper was served at the Lake House. It was a swell affair and a number of parties were present from Jackson and other places. The court house was the old building that is now used as a stable, and was let by the commissioners for such purposes and also for public meetings and religious services. The Ward boys had a good trade; goods of all kinds were high, it being just after the close of the war. Cotton sheeting was 50c. to 85c. a yard, calico 20c. to 25c., cotton thread 20c. a spool, tea from \$1.75 to \$2.50 per pound, kerosene 90c. to \$1.00 per gallon, tobacco \$1.75 to \$2 a pound, and common stoga boots were from \$5 to \$8.50 per pair. Also at this time there had to be a revenue stamp (according to the consideration) for every mortgage, every bond, every note and every affidavit. During a lawsuit which occurred this year, one of the parties made an affidavit for a change of venue, but lacked the 25c. stamp for it. The opposing counsel objected to its receipt, and the party offering, withdrew it as he did not dare file it and assume the risk of the penalty without the stamp. A party who went from here to Estherville to replevin some cattle, not having a revenue stamp, and being unable to purchase one in that town to put on his bond, was obliged to drive to Spirit Lake where the deputy collector lived to get a stamp put on the bond be-

fore he could get his cattle. Dealers claimed to pay \$7.00 at wholesale by the case for stoga boots, \$2.25 a pound for the best tea, 18 and 19c. a spool, by the dozen, for thread, and 75c. for kerosene, so, if the prices at retail were high, the prices at wholesale were the same.

Gold was then at a large premium, ranging from \$2 to \$2.85, which was the reason given for the high prices of everything. In my opinion it was more of a speculation taken advantage of by the manufacturers and the money power. The soldiers received their pay in paper money so that they received no benefit from the big premium on gold. At this time also the prices of fur were very high on account of the paper money. The figures we have given were the prices in paper money. Of course gold being at a premium, if the articles were paid for in gold it reduced the price in proportion. January 3d, 1866, the commissioners met, and were: Chas. Dana, H. S. Wood, I. F. Bickford, Galliton Brown, county auditor; E. T. Boudrye, county treasurer; A. Bowen, register of deeds and E. D. Walker, sheriff. It being an entire new set of officers and not understanding the financial condition of the county very well, they called to their assistance E. D. Walker and Judge Thomas Nichols, of Pleasant Prairie. They spent several days in examining the books but were unable to find anything wrong. At this time the town of Nevada was changed to Silver Lake. E. T. Boudrye later resigned the office of treasurer and A. C. Hand was appointed to fill the vacancy. A. Fancher held the office of clerk of the district court, which office he held a number of years thereafter, when he



was succeeded by Edw. F. Wade. This winter a good many settlers went into the woods to work and cut timber. It was during these times that timber was valuable, and it was claimed by some that no very strict regard was paid to lines, especially when the owner was a non-resident. Considerable litigation was caused by the arrest of parties for cutting timber on the land of others. There were singing schools and religious meetings held in various parts of the county, and people would go a long distance to attend them, as it was somewhat lonely living out on the prairies, and as they had nothing particular to do but keep warm, they were glad of anything to pass away the time.

On the 14th of February a singing school was held in the township of Silver Lake and a dance at the residence of I. G. Swearingen in Ratland township, where Julius Keister now lives. A number from Fairmont attended the dance. During the evening a storm came up from the northwest (what was called a blizzard) and lasted for 36 hours, and the parties were obliged to stay there. Some of them had left their children at home, and were very much worried. It took considerable persuasion to keep some of them from daring the storm and starting for home. There was then only the store on the town plat; the nearest house was the Lake House, south; on the north near now the residence of Mr. Gamble was the residence of Mr. Bartholomew who was away, for goods. His wife was attending the dance and had left the boy at home. We mention, to show the fierceness of the wind and the atmosphere filled with snow, what a settler said of it. Being at the store, the safety of the

Bartholomew boy was talked of, and in the afternoon he volunteered to go to the house. He took with him a dog, thinking that might prevent his getting lost. The road then ran directly by the house. By looking down one could see the track, but could not face the storm as the wind would fill eyes and face full, and it would freeze on. This party stated that his dog would not follow him but when he would stop and call, the dog would come to him, but that when he went on again the dog stopped. He finally examined the dog and found his eyes entirely covered with ice. The reason that horses and cattle leave the beaten path in such storms is that they are blinded with the storm and snow frozen on their eyelids. The weather turned very cold during this storm. At Silver Lake two families of young people by the name of Pressler and Landaker started home from singing school. They had an ox team and sleigh filled with hay and blankets. As they were going with their backs to the storm, they thought they would get home all right, but the team left the road, and wandered around, with the boys taking turns scouting away from the sleigh trying to find the road and house until they got stuck in the drifting snow. The storm was so severe and the snow so thick they could see no distance from the sleigh and did not dare leave. The Landaker boy stayed outside the sleigh, trying to see or hear something, keeping himself warm by pounding around the sleigh and lying between the oxen. They were there two nights and one day before the storm abated. The next morning after the storm Mr. Landaker's dog came to them and the boys found

their way to the house. The oxen were frozen, and the three girls were frozen to death sitting in the sleigh. The Landaker boy who was outside so much of the time lost only part of one foot. One Pressler boy lost both feet and hands and two other boys lost both feet. The sleigh tracks showed that they had been within 10 rods of the house of A. Fancher. It would seem almost incredible at this time that parties so near home should be unable to reach their destination, or that they should be frozen when protected as these young people were. The older residents will bear us out in stating that it was impossible to see any distance at that time, and that when one got out in a storm they got bewildered and lost all idea of direction. These deaths caused a gloom to rest over our thinly settled county, and the settlers to be very careful as to how they were away from home during a bad snow in the evening and to seek shelter any time during the day when a storm came up. This storm caught a number of teams here that were hauling goods through to the Missouri river for Indian supplies, and they were detained until the roads were again broken through.

The commissioners met in special session and set off the township 102-29 and called it Pleasant Prairie, and the first election was held on the 7th day of March, to elect township officers, at the residence of A. J. Hodgman. At this meeting the townships 101-31, 101-32 and 101-33 were detached from the town of Silver Lake and constituted one precinct and was called Tenhassen. The first meeting being held for the election of officers at the house of Cornelius Personius. Dr.

McDuff was appointed county physician. Thomas Nichols was appointed to go over to Brown and Faribault counties and copy those portions of the records that belonged to this county when attached to those counties. It required considerable labor to make those copies, but that it was economically done can be judged from the fact that only \$20 was allowed for expenses. There were some new settlers coming in now, as the time for the soldiers to get onto their claims was almost expired, and those who intended to come began to arrive. There was a school meeting in district 1 on March 31st. At this meeting it was found that the district was indebted to the amount of \$56.00 and it was decided that a tax be levied to raise \$115 for school purposes and \$400 to build a school house, and a committee composed of R. M. Ward, James Swearingen and Wm. H. Budd were appointed to select a place, and they selected the location where the present school house is now. Mr. James Hill and his family, including his sons Sommerville and Washington P., came here this month. This spring also the Michigan company who owned the townsite sent their representatives here, Dr. O. P. Chubb and Col. Lounsberry. Col. Lounsberry started for this place in the fall of 1865 with a large flock of sheep which he drove through, but the snow caught him while in central Iowa, and he was obliged to remain there until he was able to come on through in the spring. M. E. L. Shanks came here in the latter part of the winter of this year and bought the right of a party to his claim, and then returned to his home and did not return until the fall. There was considerable dispute as to claims and some

cases of what was called claim jumping, which was discountenanced by the settlers. A party taking a claim was sometimes prevented by sickness or other reasons from going on to it within the time allowed by law, and after they had once been on they were sometimes obliged to take their families away for the winter where they would be cutting timber or getting work to support themselves, which would leave their claims liable to be jumped, as it was called. We are glad to be able to state that very little of it was done in this county. There was one case at East Chain where a party who was trying to hold a claim for a friend who was detained from coming here in time. It was filed on by another party who began to make improvements and he was ordered off by the party representing the first owner, when he advanced on him with a view to violence, and the first in self defense shot and caused the loss of an arm. This raised quite an excitement and caused a great amount of litigation at the expense of the county.

Col. Lounsberry got here early this spring and brought his family with him and at once began to work in the interest of the company he represented and endeavored to build up the town. He donated to the school district two lots for school purposes, and in September of that year a meeting was called in which it was voted to build a school house, the cost not to exceed \$800 and a tax was levied to raise \$500 and the rest was to be raised by the sale of bonds. The cost of the house was \$793, without the seats. William Bird, R. M. Ward and W. H. Budd were the committee on building. The seats were donated by the people

of the district giving a supper which raised the money to pay for them. The first term of school in it was taught by Geo. W. Tanner. There got here this year a number of settlers in the west part of the county. J. A. and C. E. Everett, Perry Munger and three sons; J. A. Archer and two sons; Mr. Harden, C. Welcome, A. Decker and others whose names we do not remember. Mr. Archer built a sod hotel about midway between here and Jackson. A number of new settlers came about this time and settled in Rutland, of whom C. H. Bullard, J. E. Canright and Mr. Spencer are about the only ones now living here. The east part of the county had a good number of settlers but as there were no inducements for them to come here and there was plenty of timber on the Blue Earth river, and they were near Blue Earth City and Winnebago City, they did most of their trading there, and we are unable to give their names. Manley Payne and R. E. Hill and his two sons came here this year.

Dr. Chubb and Col. Lounsberry, in their efforts to help the town, arranged to have brick burnt here, and contracted with Mr. Chenny who owned the land on the west side of Buffalo lake, and Jas. Swearingen and myself made some brick moulds. The brick kiln was located on ground as high as any around Fairmount, and was made of surface soil and was of good quality. The brick from same was used by Dr. Chubb in building his residence, being where G. S. Livermore now lives, and that the brick was of good quality and durable any one can ascertain for themselves. The brick was also used for the school house and the basement of the house built by Col. Lounsberry, it being the house owned by Mrs. R.

Colton directly east of the Ward Machine Company's building. Since that time there has been no brick burned with the exception of a few samples by B. Richardson. Professional brick makers claim that there is too much lime in our soil to make good brick.

Henry Johnson, a party who lived and held a claim where Ward's addition and the depots and grain warehouses are now, sold out to Giles Bartholomew, a brother-in-law of W. W. Carrington, who got here in 1865 and in 1863 built a residence. Mr. Johnson went to Fox Lake and bought a claim on the north side in the timber, where he died this winter. His first wife was an Indian woman who died while Mr. Johnson was a resident of Fairmont, and was buried in what is now Taylor & Johnson's addition, and on the death of Mr. Johnson he was brought from Fox Lake and buried beside her. I think this gives rise to some of the reports about the ghost of an Indian woman being seen at certain times at that place.

A. D. Caldwell came here this fall and lived a part of the winter in the house built by Mr. Bartholomew, and also in the fall of 1863 he built on the corner of Main street and Blue Earth avenue a blacksmith and wagon shop; quite a large building for those times. It stood there and was used until the Ward Machine Company tore it down for the use of their present business. J. D. Crowther, the Lasby boys and W. H. Freeman settled in the east part of town, H. B. Rouse having made a claim the year before. Fletcher Hill came at this time, and located near where his family now resides. Also a great many homestead claims were taken in Pleasant Prairie and Center

Creek on the east line of Pleasant Prairie township. Some settlers had come in earlier, of whom the Dalys, who now live there, are about all that remain.

J. W. Burdick and James Bird this year built a store building on North Avenue near where Pfeiffer's saloon now is. This building was later purchased by G. S. Livermore and moved to Main street, where it now is, it being the east part of the building used by Wm. Brockman as a harness shop. Thomas Goff also came this year from Chatfield, Minn., with a large amount of stock and quite a herd of sheep and farm machinery and teams. He built on the lots where the Masonic temple now is, a store in which he put a stock of goods and drugs; he lived overhead during this winter. Mr. Goff brought a large amount of capital with him to this county. This year Thomas Nichols was appointed judge of probate; L. F. Brainerd, surveyor; L. F. Patchen, superintendent; David Bates, sheriff; and C. A. Lounsbury, county auditor. The north half of Center Creek was attached to commissioner district No. 2 for election purposes.

On the 20th of September there was a heavy frost which killed corn and sorghum, and as these were the principal crops for new settlers, it was a great injury to them as will be seen later. In this year Philo More was arrested and held to the grand jury for arson for the burning of a building of L. F. True on Elm Creek, and in default of bail was sent to the jail at Mankato. There was a term of court held in October of this year. Horace Austin, afterwards governor of this state, was the presiding judge. The case of the claim

jumping, heretofore spoken of and the case of Morse being the only matters before the court, change of venue was taken to Blue Earth county. This year the first member of the legislature from this county was elected, being Aaron Andrews. There was quite a contest, as the question then came up as to what was then known as points or no points in relation to the railway land grants. One side claimed the state legislature had authority to designate the places to which the road should run before the state legislature could be called upon to confirm the grant of congress to the Southern Minnesota Railway Company. The points in this district which comprised the counties of Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Roak and Nobles, to which it was proposed to make the road run were Blue Earth City, Fairmont, Jackson and Graham Lakes. The people living farther north opposed this and insisted that the company build where they wanted to. There were two tickets in the field, and the "pointers" as they were then called were successful. We shall have occasion to refer to this again later on. At the December meeting of the commissioners a petition to set off the town of Rutland was granted, and the first meeting was held at the house of I. G. Swearingen. Among the bills allowed was one of \$995.95 to Blue Earth county for boarding prisoners and county expenses. At the January 1867 meeting of the commissioners there were present I. F. Bickford, H. S. Wood and W. H. Budd. The usual routine of county business was transacted. Dr. O. P. Chubb was appointed county physician; Richard James, coronor; A. J. Patchen, treasurer; R. B. Simmons, judge of Probate; C. A.

Lounsbury, auditor; A. L. Ward, county attorney; I. F. Bickford, chairman of the board.

There was a large amount of snow fell this winter but no bad storms. At the March meeting of the commissioners the inhabitants of the towns of 102, 103 and 104 of ranges 32 and 33 petitioned for a town to be called Melrose, which petition was granted but later was changed to Elm Creek on account of there being another town of the same name in the state. The inhabitants of 101 ranges 32 and 33 also petitioned to be set off as an election township, which petition was granted and the town was called Lake Belt, and the first election was held at the house of George Johnson on April 7th, 1867. The winter of 1866-7 had a great deal of snow; the cold weather set in early and lasted late in the spring, there being good sleighing the middle of April. The Michigan Company's sheep, in charge of Colonel Lounsbury, who had also taken those brought in by Mr. Goff, run short of fodder and their bodies could be found all over the prairies later in the spring. That venture was a failure, over 800 sheep dying. Many cattle also died this spring on account of the scarcity of feed. It was late in May before any substance could be got from the prairies for cattle. Strange as it may seem in this country where at that time millions of tons of hay was burned every year by prairie fires before it was cut, there was a price demanded for hay that has never since been asked, and probably never will again. The deep snow caused a great deal of water, which was followed by spring rains, and made travel almost impossible. The sloughs and creeks being full to over-

flowing, teams had to be swam across, and the wagons towed over with ropes, and a party hauling a load had to take a boat with him to ferry the articles across the streams. There was but one bridge between here and Mankato, and parties sent out for supplies went together with three or four yoke of oxen to a wagon, three barrels of flour was considered a good load, and it took a week or more to make the trip to Mankato and back. With goods of a heavy nature, such as flour and salt, anyone can imagine the expense of getting them here. Flour retailed for \$10 per hundred pounds, actual cost, salt ten cents per pound. In 1866 I believe this county had the largest number of new settlers that it ever had in one year. This was caused by a number of reasons, one of which was the location of the railway grant which would take all the odd numbered sections. Settlers coming here before that time could get their choice of any land not yet settled on. The close of the war had brought a great many settlers who were seeking out new locations, and this county had a great attraction for them, and not only this county, but all of the counties in the west and southwest part of the state received a very heavy immigration. These settlers were mostly parties with limited means, and were barely able to get onto their claims and provide suitable shelter for their families, and what little stock they had. Some townships in this county then had nearly as large a number of settlers as they have now. They had not been here long enough to have raised a crop; they had done some breaking and got in some sod corn potatoes and such crops as could be raised on breaking, which was killed

by the frost in September, and they had no resources to back them. Those who could get away, went into the woods to work, but many could not go, and those who did, on account of the low wages paid and the large amount of laborers wanting employment, were unable to bring back much money. This, following the long severe winter, was the condition the people of this large district were called on to meet in the spring of 1867. The deep snow and high water made it almost impossible to catch fur, and before the opening of the lakes it was hard to catch fish. There was considerable complaint made by settlers as to being unable to procure provisions on account of the scarcity, and they having no money to purchase any. There were established in different places what were called bread committees; it being the design to try and get along without outside aid by each helping the other. Those that were able contributed so much a month for that purpose. This county was not in any worse condition than other counties around us. The complaint became general, and the cry for bread and seed grain attracted the older counties, and state officials, who took the matter in hand and sent committees out to these counties to investigate. It is probably true that aid was furnished to those who were not deserving, and that there were cases where it ought to have been rendered and it was not done. It would be strange if that were not so, for the more modest would shrink from letting it be known that they were in destitute circumstances, and others with less modesty would parade and exaggerate their condition.

The commissioners were called in



special session on May 11th. Present: W. H. Budd, I. F. Bickford and H. S. Wood. This meeting was called to consider proposals from the governor that the townships should become responsible to the county, and the county become responsible to the state and the state would then advance money to procure provisions and seed grain for those in destitute circumstances. The commissioners, after discussing the matter, accepted the proposal of the governor and made a report stating the amount of different grain required. Dr. O. P. Chubb was appointed to receive and distribute the seed to the destitute parties. The commissioners also decided to call a meeting of all the township boards to be held in Fairmont on May 25th for the purpose of taking this matter into consideration. This meeting was held, and each township had a representative. It was agreed that the county should issue its obligation to the state and that the townships should issue their obligation to the county for such an amount as they received, payable ten days before the county's obligation to the state became due, for the purpose of raising money to supply seed corn and provisions to the destitute. There were present at this meeting: J. A. Armstrong, from Nashville; R. B. Simons and James Carlyle, from Waverly; J. P. Barnes, Center Creek; Thomas Nichols, Oliver W. Pitt and Moses Ayers, from Pleasant Prairie; E. W. Connelly, Rutland; Perry Munger, Elm Creek; H. S. Wood, Silver Lake; William Bird and F. S. Livermore, from Fairmont; and W. Wiltzie, from Lake Belt. At this meeting William H. Budd and I. F. Bickford were appointed a committee and in-

structed to proceed at once to Manakato for the purpose of purchasing supplies, and it was arranged that these supplies be subject to the order of the chairman of the township board, to be countersigned by the town clerk; each township to make a report of the amount of such articles needed, and to issue their obligations for the same, which was to be filed with the county auditor. It was estimated at this time that 30 tons of flour would be needed. At this meeting the chairmen of the different townships and the supervisors were in joint session. On account of the lateness of the season, it was deemed best not to furnish seed wheat or seed oats. The following amounts of seed corn were allowed to the townships named: Nashville, 8 bushels; Waverly, 5½ bushels; Elm Creek, 5 bushels; Center Creek, 5 bushels; Pleasant Prairie, 27 bushels; Silver Lake, 48½ bushels; Tenhassen, 9 bushels; Lake Belt, 9 bushels; and Rutland, 5 bushels.

The commissioners, called in special session, made the following report to the governor:

FAIRMONT, MARTIN COUNTY, MINN.,  
May 10th, 1867,

To His Excellency, Gov. Wm. R. Marshall:

DEAR SIR:—The board of county commissioners in session this day received your proposition for the supply of seed grains to this county, made through Capt. Kennedy, and accepted the same.

It was the sense of the board, and in view of the lateness of the season, the supply of seed wheat is inexpedient.

It is estimated that 125 bushels of seed corn are needed to seed the ground not sown to wheat and oats, and it was voted to secure that amount according to your proposition.

From the date we are at present able to obtain it appears that there is now sown in the township of Fairmount 450 acres of wheat against about 100 last year. About 50 acres more of wheat would have been sown had your proposition been received in time, but as it is, the ground will be used for other crops.

In the town of Waverly, 266 acres of wheat are now sown, against 102 acres last year. About 20 acres might have been sown but the land will not lie idle.

In Silver Lake township there are 209 acres seeded to wheat this year against 34 last year.

Tenhausen and Lake Belt townships are estimated to 80 acres to wheat this year against 16 acres last year.

Pleasant Prairie has about 100 acres this season against 25 acres last year.

Nashville is thickly settled—has about 800 inhabitants, and has about one-third more wheat sown this year than last.

Center Creek has about 300 inhabitants, mainly well-to-do, and it is estimated that at least one-half more wheat has been put in the ground than was the case last year.

Rutland has about 200 inhabitants, with but little breadth of wheat sown (none last year) but will plant a considerable amount of corn. Oats and corn will be seeded in about the same proportion this spring as was the case last year.

There are no cases of destitution reported in the towns of Nashville and Waverly, but few in Center Creek and none in Fairmount not supplied within the town; a few cases are reported in Pleasant Prairie and Elm Creek—none in Rn land.

There is undoubtedly destitution in

the southern part of the county, embracing the towns of Silver Lake, Tenhausen and Lake Belt, but little wheat has heretofore been sown in this section on account of the destruction of the seed by birds. The corn crop was entirely destroyed by the early frost last season, and being the main dependence for bread, its loss fully explains the present destitution.

These towns contain an aggregate of about 600 inhabitants.

Very Respectfully,  
W. H. BUDD.  
I. T. BICKFORD,  
H. S. WOOD.

The following taken from the *Mankato Record* of May 18, 1867, shows that the people of the eastern counties of the state were aware of the condition and that the need of aid was general in all of the frontier counties:

#### SEED CORN FOR THE BORDER.

"Our fellow townsman, J. J. Thompson, Esq., returned on Monday from a visit to Winona. While there he raised something over \$500 for the benefit of the destitute settlers on the border, and sent it to Milwaukee to be invested in seed corn. Mr. Thompson thought the amount raised would purchase nearly 400 bushels. Mr. Thompson is quite confident that this corn will be passed over the Milwaukee & La Crosse, Winona & St. Peter and Minnesota Central Railroads free of cost, leaving the transportation from Mendota to Mankato to be paid for.

It is estimated that twenty-five bushels of seed corn will be required for Jackson and 125 bushels for Martin counties leaving sufficient at the disposal of the committee to supply Watonwan, Renville and other frontier counties. This corn is expected here

the latter part of this or the first of next week."

On the adjournment of the commissioners and town boards, Wm. H. Budd I. Bickford started at once for Mankato to carry out the instructions received and procure supplies for the needy settlers. From their report we find it took them three days to reach Mankato. The roads were very bad and almost impassible. The trip was made with a pair of mules and a light buggy, and with no load except themselves. They were frequently stalled and were obliged to stop and pull their buggy by hand out of the sloughs. On the third day we got to Mankato, and immediately reported to J. C. Wise and Mr. Cleveland, the agents appointed by the governor to act for the frontier counties. We presented our instructions and copy of the proceedings of the commissioners and the township boards, which authorized us to make contracts and give the obligations of the county for the purposes stated. They stated that it would be unnecessary for us to go to St. Paul, but that they would forward a copy of our proceedings to the governor. This they did, and in a few days received instruction from Governor Marshall with a remittance of some money to be expended in our behalf. While waiting to hear from St. Paul, we looked around to ascertain what supplies could be had and what it would be best to get. We found at Mankato a large supply of flour which had been contracted for the Indians; the government having to support them on the reservation. This flour was so much damaged that the Indian agent hesitated to pass it, and we also refused to pass it. As soon as we heard from the governor and obtained some money,

we came back to Garden City and bought of Harrington & Company 7,000 pounds of flour; including 1,000 pounds which had previously been sent to the county. The price we were obliged to pay at Garden City was \$5 per hundred. This flour was sent and divided among the different townships in the county according to their applications received and passed upon by the relief committee, consisting of the several township boards and the county commissioners. While at Garden City we made arrangements for the purchase of such amounts of flour and corn meal as the county might need. Prices to be paid for flour was \$5 for second grade and \$6.50 for first grade per hundred; corn meal was \$4 per hundred. Add to this the expense of getting it here, and our readers will readily see why flour was worth \$10 per hundred.

The settlers with their teams went together, but could not make the trip under four to six days, and could then haul only a little. The most of them carried boats in their wagons, which they used to ferry their flour or meal across the streams; they then tied long ropes to their wagons, swam their teams across, and then towed the wagons across. The commissioners issued their obligation to the state for the amount of \$3,500. The money was received from the state at different times, as needed, the last being received on the 6th of July. This money was used to advantage so that when the supplies furnished by this last remittance was exhausted, the people had been able to raise and harvest a crop, so that it was not necessary to give further relief. A settlement was made with the relief committees and a full report made from

each township board to the county board, and by the county board forward to the governor. Aside from the amount expended by the county, there was quite an amount sent in by outside parties to their friends, of which there is no record of the amount. We made no charges for our time; our expenses only being paid. Among some of the settlers who are here now and who assisted in making these trips or who had knowledge of them and of the condition of the streams, we refer to Capt. Bird, William and Richard McCadden, Jehu Hayworth and Richard Jones. The settlement with the different towns shows the amount of relief officially given as follows: Pleasant Prairie \$710; Nashville \$650; Center Creek \$100; Lake Belt, which then included Lake Freemont, \$100; Silver Lake, which then included East Chain, \$500; Tenhassen \$350; Elm Creek, which then included Jay and Cedar, \$180; Waverly, which then included Westford, Galena and a part of Frasier \$360; Fairmount, which then included Rolling Green, Manyaska and part of Frasier, \$234; Rutland \$82.75.

So that all may understand the condition of matters and the extent of destitution existing at this time, we publish reports of parties sent out by the governor to examine into and make report to him we only mention that part affirming to the county.

It may be well for me to say that some concealed their condition not liking to have it known how destitute they were; others exaggerated it.

Poor people we have now. Yet to those who were not residents of the county then it would now seem impossible, that so much destitution could exist but they must remember

that then this was a new country and the settlers had no resources to fall back on.

The following is the report taken the *Mankato Record* of 1867;

On Sunday last Colonel Matteson, appointed by Gov. Marshall to visit Renville and adjacent counties, and relieve the reported destitution there, passed through our village. The Colonel was also authorized to purchase ten thousand Government rations at Fort Ridgley, to be issued to the officers of the counties requiring the same to relieve the needy and destitute. These rations are purchased by the state, and the county commissioners of the several counties in turn indemnify the state for such a proportion as may be required and used by them.

On Tuesday evening Captain Kennedy returned to this place from Martin county. In conversation with him we learn that he arrived at Fairmont on the 9th. The next day a meeting of the county commissioners was held when he submitted the governor's proposition to extend aid to the needy by the state, through the county authorities. After mature consideration the board resolved to accept as much of the proposition as pertain to furnishing seed, and fixed upon 125 bushels of corn as sufficient to plant all the plowed land in the county not otherwise occupied.

In view of the difficulties in procuring transportation for seed wheat from Mankato, and the lateness of the season the board declined to take any action relative to seed wheat. By a document elsewhere published, it will be observed, as pertinent to this matter that at least three or four times as many acres are now seeded to wheat as

was the case last year, and the further fact appears that there are only about 70 acres in the entire county that might have been sown in wheat but was not for want of seed.

In regard to the proposition to provide the people of the county with subsistence, the board declined to assume any responsibility, basing their action in that respect on the belief that the necessities of the people are not such as to require the acceptance of the same.

The Captain canvassed, as thoroughly as his limited space would permit, the Center Creek, Silver Lake, Chain Lake Center and Fairmont, visiting a number of families and inquired minutely into their conditions and that of their neighbors. He found and heard of many who were short of provisions, but heard of no cases of actual suffering for want of food. Two families at East Chain lakes or Silver Lake had been subsisting on fish and coarse flour or shorts for several weeks. They had been able to procure fish for every day, and for only one meal had been entirely out of flour. Relief was furnished in both cases—flour and salt being furnished—the latter of which they were entirely destitute, and which were much needed as they could easily obtain and cure a supply of fish for their own use. Several other families are in about the same condition. The condition of this town is about a fair average of the condition of the settlers at Center Creek and Chain Lake Center. The town of Fairmont was fully supplied within itself.

Most of the families were destitute of means at present to procure seed and food, but all with whom the captain conversed expressed confidence in their ability to get along if

they can have a little temporary help.

The captain met Mr. Little, the agent sent out by the Mankato Relief Committee, at Fairmont on Saturday. He had made a thorough and energetic canvass of the southern parts of Martin and Jackson counties, and he reports a good deal of destitution in the towns of Tenhassen, Lake Belt and Fox Lake.

He reports Jackson county as doing well, the system adopted by the county committee working admirably, and relief being extended to all that are really needy.

By the annexed document, signed by the county commissioners, it will be seen that, notwithstanding the reported destitution, three times as many acres are seeded in wheat this year, as there were last year. Even in the southern towns where the greatest destitution is said to exist, this increase will hold good. Only 70 acres prepared for wheat are reported by the commissioners to be still idle for want of seed, and these will be put in corn.

In regard to the matter of subsistence the fact that the commissioners declined to accept the liberal offer of the governor to supply them, is good evidence that the destitution is not considered so general as has been reported. We annex both documents:  
FAIRMONT, MARTIN CO., May 10, 1867.  
To His Excellency Gov. Wm. B. Marshall:

DEAR SIR.—The board of county commissioners in session this day received your proposition for the supply of seed grains to this county, made through Captain Kennedy, and accepted the same.

It was the sense of the board, that in view of the lateness of the season the supply of seed wheat is inexpedient.



It is estimated that one hundred and twenty-five bushels of seed corn is needed to seed the ground not sown to wheat and oats, and it was voted to secure that amount according to your proposition.

From the data we are at present able to obtain, it appears that there is now sown in the town of Fairmont 450 acres of wheat, against about 100 last year. About 50 acres more of wheat would have been sown had your proposal been received in time, but as it is, the ground will be used for other crops.

In the town of Waverly, 266 acres of wheat are now sown, against 102 acres last year. About 20 acres more might have been sown, but the ground will not lie idle.

In Silver Lake township there are 209 acres seeded to wheat this year against 34 acres last year.

Tenhassen and Lake Belt townships are estimated at 80 acres of wheat this year against 16 acres last.

Pleasant Prairie has about 100 acres this season against 25 acres last year.

Nashville is thickly settled—has about 500 inhabitants, and has about one-third more wheat sown this year than last.

Center Creek has about 300 inhabitants, mainly well-to-do, and it is estimated that at least one-half more wheat has been put in the ground than was the case last season.

Rutland has about 200 inhabitants, with but little breadth of wheat sown (none last year) but will plant a considerable amount of corn.

Oats and corn will be seeded in about the same proportionment this spring, as was the case last year.

There was no cases of destitution reported in the town of Nashville and Waverly, but few in Center Creek, and none in Fairmont not supplied within the town. A few cases are reported in Pleasant Prairie and Elm Creek—none in Rutland.

There is undoubtedly much destitution in the southern part of the county, embracing the towns of Silver Lake, Tenhassen and Lake Belt.

But little wheat has heretofore been sown in this section on account of the destruction of the seed by birds.

The corn crop was entirely destroyed by the early frost last season, and being the main dependence for bread, its loss fully explains the present destitution.

The towns contain an aggregate of about 500 inhabitants.

Very respectfully, W. H. BUDD,  
I. F. BICKFORD,  
H. S. WOOD.

Since writing the above, Mr. Little has returned. He visited the southern towns of Martin county, which were not visited by Captain Kennedy, and reports a great deal of destitution. We make the following synopsis of his report to the relief committee:

“MANKATO, May 16, 1867.

“Mr. J. C. WISE—SIR: As I was appointed agent to visit Martin and Jackson counties to ascertain the condition of the people there, I will give you my views of the case.

“In regard to Jackson county, I did not find any real suffering there, although there were a great many needy families, but the head men of the county took early steps to guard against the crisis which they saw coming. There are in the county about twenty-seven families that are quite destitute, and will need assistance, but with the prompt action taken, I think they will be able to get through with a little more help. They have sown, this spring, I think, three times as much small grain as ever before. Had they not taken early measures there would have been much suffering there.

“In regard to Martin county I found much suffering, particularly in the southern part. One family told me they had lived on frozen ruta-bagas, and a little wheat ground in a coffee mill, for two weeks. Others had lived on nothing but fish for several days.

One man said he had lived on potatoes for two weeks. I visited another couple, about 70 years old, where they were boiling their last pint of beans, which they had saved for seed. I could mention numerous other cases. I conversed with a number of ladies who looked as if they had seen better days; the tears would start down their cheeks in relating their trials. One lady told me she was so weak from hunger that she had not strength enough to sweep her house. She had just put the last thing in the house on to eat for dinner, which was about a quart of potatoes. One lady was so overjoyed when she heard relief had come that she cried for joy. Many families are very destitute of clothing. Another thing, there is no salt in the county, and if they had a reasonable quantity they might salt down large quantities of fish, as they have an abundance of them in their beautiful and numerous lakes. I do not think the county board were aware of the destitution, or they would have made provisions to guard against suffering, for I think they would have been among the first to give relief. If I had not arrived just when I did there must have been much greater suffering than there was. I visited more particularly the central, southern and western parts of the county. I distributed while there, through the Mankato relief association, about four hundred and fifty dollars worth of provisions, and I know that unless more relief is sent to them soon, there will be great suffering. Having visited the families myself, I base my information upon personal observations.

"J. B. LITTLE."

We have now set out in full the condition of the settlers and the manner

taken for their relief in the most critical time in our history as regards the necessities of life, brought on by a too rapid settlement of the country by a desire to obtain homes under the homestead law, by a majority who had no resources and did not consider that it required something besides being able to get on to the land, that buildings had to be built land got under cultivation, crops raised, and time and money expended before the land would be of benefit to them. This, followed by an early frost, a severe winter, our readers will be able to understand why the condition we have described.

Some say that we never again shall see as high a stage of water in the lakes and streams as in the past. That may be, as the settlement of the country and the improving of the land will have a tendency to hold the water back and not run into the streams as fast, but at the same time, the ditching of the sloughs may run it more rapidly into the streams and we shall not be surprised to again see a high stage of water, and land now cultivated again overflowed. At this time it is safe to say that all streams were rivers. Parties living at East Chain, some of whom we remember, M. E. Rice, J. Rice, Wm. Hoffman, Frank Wells, Wm. Cross, Milo Leffingwell, Joel Thompson and some others built some boats and went from East Chain down Center Creek to the Blue Earth river and to Winnebago City for supplies. They very easily made the trip down, going with the current in less than one day, but when they had their boats loaded with supplies, they had to work hard to get back in three days. Some idea of the growth of the county can be had from the assessor's

report which showed in 1863 seventy-four persons between the age of 5 and 21 years and in 1867 showed 912. It is shown in the official plat that there were over 100 tons of fish taken from the lakes this year, and during this time large numbers of ducks and geese were here from April until November and as this was before the time of game laws, they were free to all. It will be readily seen that without these two sources of food there would have been a great deal more destitution and much more aid needed.

There were a number of instances in the county where parties sowed grain before the rains early in May, which came up and looked very nice, but after the rains it was covered with water. It was not an uncommon occurrence to find on what is now nice, dry, cultivated land, little streams of back water from the creeks and lakes in which there were plenty of fish. This year a great deal of corn, potatoes and beans and other crops which did not require so much seed, were raised. There was hardly any immigration this year. A great many of the settlers became discouraged and abandoned their claims and moved away. There was enough raised this year that no further relief was needed, and profiting by the experience of the previous year, more hay was put up, better fire brakes made, and better preparations made for winter in the way of fixing up stables and houses. Notwithstanding the discouragements, more improvements were made among the settlers around Fairmont than in any previous year. This year Mr. Cadwell built a house and Sheldon Snow a store and residence on North Avenue on the lots now occupied by Newman & Englebert.

At the September meeting in 1867, the commissioners requested Horace Austin, judge of the district court, to hold no term of court this year. There was but one criminal case and that was for stealing timber from school land. At their October settlement, the commissioners cancelled orders amounting to \$1,463.50. There were outstanding and unpaid orders to the amount of \$3,796.10. The county was very much embarrassed financially, caused by expensive litigation and the tax levied on homesteads. Under instructions from the State Auditor the assessors assessed homesteads the same as real estate, but it was found that this was not legal. The payment was contested and resulted in the deficiency of funds to meet obligations, not only of the county, but also of the school districts and townships. It took a number of years to remedy this, but it was finally remedied by the taxing of the improvements on homesteads only. There was considerable contest over this in some counties, and in some places a political party was organized which was called the "Homestead Party."

County orders were sold very low at this time, some of them being sold at a discount of 60 per cent. This was a year in which a great deal occurred. We do not like to spend so much time, but cannot pass without making mention of an exciting political contest, not only for the county officers but also for members of the legislature. In the nominating Republican convention Aaron Andrews received the renomination for representative. The northern part of the district bolted the nomination and put up A. B. Colton. The issue for county officers was

largely local, but on the legislature, the railway location question was raised, and it resulted in the election of Colton by a majority of 13. The winter of 1867-8 had no bad storms but quite deep snow and drifts. A school was kept by Miss Mary Spencer, three months in the summer for \$12 per month, and by John Bird in the winter for \$25 per month.

Right here I feel it my duty to state that the settlers who remained, the greater portion of them were men and women who desired to earn their own living by their own exertions; were willing to follow the pursuits nature's God had placed around them here, notwithstanding what was said about them in the eastern papers. It used to be said by some in the older settlements East that the people here and in these frontier counties were shiftless and lazy. On the contrary, under the circumstances in which they were placed, they could have done no better, and it is to their credit that at a time which was the most critical in the history of the county that they did as well as they did, and were enabled by economy, hard work and good judgment to find means of sustenance, to develop and improve their land, and make payment of their taxes when there was no railway within four days journey, their markets only local and the necessities of life they were obliged to purchase at a high price. The commissioners had their meeting in January 1868; present, Wm. H. Budd, H. S. Wood, J. A. Armstrong, C. A. Lounsberry, auditor; Dr. O. P. Chubb, treasurer; A. Bowen; register of deeds; M. E. L. Shanks, judge of probate, Orrin Prentice, sheriff; and A. L. Ward, county attorney. The commissioners requested their

member of the legislature to have legalized the action of the county and township boards in issuing their obligations to the state for the relief furnished for the previous year. The chairman of the board and the county auditor were appointed a committee to settle with the state auditor and arrange for the cancellation of delinquent taxes assessed on homesteads, and all other taxes that were uncollectible.

There was not much building in the year of 1867; times were very hard this year. R. M. Ward built a house. This building was removed to make room for the present residence. The old building was moved to the corner of Main and 4th streets. Mr. Cadwell also built a residence on Lake Avenue. The winter of 1867 and 1868 was not very bad; the people had prepared for a winter like the previous one, and were happily disappointed, there being no very bad storms and not much cold weather. What settlers were here, and could get out, tried to do so and be sociable in the way of holding meetings. There was a debating society organized in Fairmont and some other places. The settlement with the auditor and treasurer in March 1868 shows there was received for taxes due \$1,027.34 for county revenue; there were outstanding county orders to the amount of \$2,415.36. At the March meeting, the commissioners made a trade with O. P. Chubb, representing the town plat company, and had the shape of the county grounds modified and enlarged to conform with the new town plat. There had been in 1867-68 a new plat made of the village, and some of the streets were changed nearly 45 degrees, and some of the numbers of the blocks changed. There

having been so many plats made is largely the cause of disputes arising as to the lines of some of the streets. In order to have a correct understanding of it, it is necessary to look up all of the plats and see where the changes have been made. The quarter line, (being Blue Earth Avenue) made to vary from eight to eleven feet from the original survey. Mr. Sawyer, the present deputy surveyor, in looking up the matter last year from the present plat was unable to reconcile some of the differences until by persistence he was able to reconcile the whole number of plats, and he found that the lines of the streets as now used are practically correct. There was a large amount of taxes delinquent on land assessed as homesteads. Some paid; a large majority refused to pay, and there was then built up here in the new counties a party which was called the "Homestead Party." A paper published at Winnebago City, was called "The Homestead." The object was to advocate the interests of those living on homesteads, and to which they had not yet acquired title by patent. They claimed the land was not liable to taxation, as the title was still in the government. The state afterwards instructed the county officials to assess the land we have before mentioned, but in cases, as it was largely here this year, people abandoning their homesteads on account of hard times, left the land government land, and the taxes could not very well be sustained against government land. There was no way in which parties could be compelled to pay on their homesteads, except by the usual one of advertising and selling the land. No one would buy, and it was carried as delinquent until the agitation driven to the worst extremities as to resources, that comparison may be made with the times which followed later.

In 1868 there were three stores in Fairmont, two in Tenhassen, and one in Silver Lake. A letter written by Aaron Andrews, of which mention has caused a modification to be made, and the improvements assessed as personal property. This caused the floating debt, of which we have made mention in this letter. This not only applied to the county revenues, but also to school districts and to the state, and amounted to nearly \$10,000. Col. Lounsbury, who was then county auditor had an original scheme to overcome it, which he sets forth in a letter to the "Winnebago Homestead," which will be published later. The total assessment of personal property in the county for 1868 was \$108,389, of which amount \$32,601 was improvements on homesteads. The number of acres of deeded land in the county in 1868 was 27,060, valued at \$56,485, being an average of about two dollars an acre. The value of all structures on deeded land in the county worth more than \$100, was \$631 on farms. The value of all village lots, including buildings on same was \$4,425. The total value of all real estate in the county including structures was \$41,544. The number of acres of grain grown was 4,355, of which 2,252 acres was wheat; number of bushels of wheat raised was 20,554; oats, 658 acres, yield, 19,583 bushels; corn, 1,249 acres, yield, 28,088 bushels; barley, 39 acres, yield, 609 bushels; buckwheat, 23 acres, yield, 127 bushels; potatoes, 214 acres, yield, 18,935 bushels; sorghum, 96 acres, yield, 7,024 gallons; beans, 17 acres, yield, 63 bushels; number of pounds of wool raised 2,768; pounds of butter made 37,250; cheese 3,930 pounds, as shown by the assessors statistics for 1868. The population of the county at this time was 2,604. We give these statistics to show the condition of the county at the time of the greatest depression in values, and when the people were



before been made, and which was published in a Mankato paper, of which we give a brief synopsis, is as follows: "Well, rich loam with subsoil of clay; water obtained by digging from 15 to 40 feet; three streams having their sources in the different chains of lakes, and running parallel to each other and emptying into the Blue Earth River, other streams on the west side of the county emptying into the Des Moines River, the east branch of the Des Moines River having its source in this county. All of these streams being subject to overflow in the spring, make the bottoms good land for hay, etc. Further stating that it was found by observation that vegetation was from one to two weeks earlier in the spring, and escaped the frosts that length of time in the fall. The winters are not so cold, and the thermometer does not go as low by several degrees as in the country east, north and south of us, this being occasioned by the large number of lakes in the county, the water getting so warm in the summer that it keeps the temperature warm till late in the fall. As an agricultural country it will be second to none in the state when it has the advantages of railroads, newspapers, etc." This was written 28 years ago.

Mr. Howell came here this year and formed a partnership in the drug business with O. P. Chubb, and built the building that was moved last spring to make room for the brick block of J. K. Tanner. George Ott also came here this year and bought the property where he now resides on Hall Lake. There were not many new settlers; there were more left than came this year. John B. Swearingen enlarged his mill of which mention

had before been made, and put in more and new machinery so they could make fair flour. He also built a tread wheel that could be used with horses when the water was not of sufficient force. This mill was located at the outlet of Lake Wilmot. In this year I think Henry Viesselman, John Meyers, Aaron Matson, H. Watterman and others came. A. L. Ward built an office this year, being part of the building now on Main street next to the barber shop. A ferry license was granted to William Merry to run a ferry across the inlet of Lake Okamanipeda, the high water having carried away the bridge. The first newspaper, the Martin County Atlas, was started this year by Col. Lounsberry and a Mr. Palmer. A few issues were published in the old court house, and it was then moved down Lake Avenue to the Col's. residence. We will make mention of this paper later.

This year, as now, there was considerable strife between Main Street and North Avenue, also over the location of the state road from Blue Earth City to Jackson. Some parties wanted the road to run down Lake Avenue and cross where the cemetery now is. Others wanted it to go down North Avenue and cross at the outlet of Budd Lake, and there was considerable feeling over its location. It was finally located by the commissioners to go by way of the cemetery. There was on Main Street at this time Ward & Cadwell's store, Chubb & Howell's store, A. L. Ward's office and a blacksmith shop. On North Avenue were Bird & Burdick, T. F. Goff, and E. S. Snow's store. The feeling grew so strong that Aaron Andrews, who owned what is now Webster & Johnson's addition and Wards central addition, be-

ing the part of Fairmont lying south of Blue Earth Avenue, built a fence from the lake on the north side of the Bullard House to North Avenue east, thus closing all of the streets south of Blue Earth Avenue. This contest was kept up until the failure of F. F. Goff, and the going out of business of Bird & Burdick, when G. S. Livermore bought the Bird & Burdick building and moved it to Main Street, it being the building now occupied by Breckman's harness shop. North Avenue was out of the race for awhile, until Goff sold his property and a large number of lots on North Avenue to A. L. Ward who again started to build up the street. This year fair crops were raised and grain brought a very fair price. Our nearest railway was Owatonna and later Waseca, and wheat brought \$1 to \$1.25 a bushel delivered there. There was a term of court held at which time the matter of the flooding of land by the dam at the outlet of Lake George was considered. George Tanner who owned the mill property at that time, had had a commission appointed to estimate the damages. Some of the parties accepted the decision of the commission, but others refused to take their award and appealed to the district court. The appeal was thrown out on technical questions, and the dam was allowed to stand. At the election this fall J. B. Wakefield of Blue Earth City, was elected senator and J. W. Hunter of Jackson; representative. The issue was points and no points on railway of which mention has before been made. The county officers elected were John A. Handy commissioner from the first district, being a resident of Tenhassee. C. A. Lounsberry, auditor; C. H. Bullard, sheriff; A. L. Ward, county attor-

ney and L. F. Brainerd, surveyor. The weather was very changeable, snow and rain following in the winter with some quite cold weather. On December 6th Mr. H. C. Waterman buried his daughter, Carrie, this being the first burial in the present cemetery. There being no cemetery, Mr. Tanner, who owned the land, gave permission to bury the child there. On December 11th, Mr. Louis La Boute was also buried in the same ground. He was a resident of Canada before coming to this county and at the time of his death was 102 years of age. Mr. Howell also buried his infant child there this year. At this time the land was a homestead, and there was no title by which deed could be given. A cemetery association was formed in 1871, of which mention will be made later. This year the bridge was built across Elk Creek near what was known as Allen's Ford. This year Luke Ward and family came here. At the March, 1889, meeting of the commissioners, it was found that the liabilities of the county was \$2,932.46. The Martin County Atlas was by resolution created the official paper of the county for the county printing at legal rates. There was perfect unanimity in this action, and no kicking on the part of other papers. On March 15th of this year the house of G. B. Ramford in Rolling Green was burned, being the first occupied house in the county burned, most of the household goods were saved. At their March meeting, the commissioners changed the location of the county road running from Garden City to Tenhassee. The spring was very cold and backward, and it was the last of April before much wheat was sown. This spring Aaron Andrews sold his claim

to Webster & Johnson and Giles Bartholomew sold his 66 Luke Ward. Both of these places are now in the City of Fairmont limits, and platted. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Bartholomew left in the spring with Mr. H. Waterman and Mr. Lewellyn for Missouri, and as some of them had quite large families, it made quite a thinning out in the settlement. Mr. Andrews had previously been county treasurer and had served one term in the legislature and held other positions of importance, and was a very useful man in the county. E. M. Hyatt and wife took charge of the hotel vacated by Mr. Andrews, which position they occupied for a number of years until the hotel was abandoned. H. M. Blaisdell came here in the spring of 1869 and formed a partnership in the law business with A. L. Ward. Thomas Goff made some additions to his store building, and put in a large stock of goods, etc.

In the resurvey of the county road, there was a party of five consisting of L. F. Brainerd, county surveyor; J. A. Armstrong, Samuel Bacon, George Van Amber and the writer. They stayed all night with Col. Bullard, who was then sheriff, at his Rutland farm. He was not then running a hotel on the style of the present time, and not having room for so much company, we were obliged to camp on the floor. When we awoke in the morning the surveyor was missing. When found he was out on the prairie apparently running a line for the road, but he told Col. Bullard privately that it was on account of being kicked out, sleeping so many in a bed.

This year was the first in which settlers took a part in planting out groves, and a great many soft maple

seeds were gathered, and after being allowed to grow one year, were transplanted. This was kept up a number of years by the settlers, the state later paying a bounty, so that to-day the county does not have so much the appearance of a prairie country, most of the farmers having groves.

There was a late harvest on account of the late spring, there was an immense growth of straw. It was a very wet harvest, and in some places the grain was looking very bad, and required a great deal of labor to gather it. There were very few reapers in the county then, and a self-raking reaper was a very scarce article. Some used machines where a man would sit and push the grain off with a fork, and some used what was called a dropper. Wages were from \$2 to \$3 a day. A great many farmers used cradles. On August 6th there was a total eclipse of the sun in the afternoon. We remember it very well, as it was quite dark, and being in the day time it was observed by all. Birds, chickens and other fowls went to their roosts. It was very hard work to get help this year, and the wet weather made us much extra work, as a great many stacks had to be taken down, the grain dried and then re-staked. The price of the grain afterwards was only 75c a bushel, hauled 50 to 75 miles to market. The nearest market was Mankato and the nearest railroad was Owatonna. It cost at least one-half of the grain to market it.

This year the bridge, now being replaced by a new one was built by O. P. Chubb across the outlet between Lake George and Lake Sisseton, near the cemetery. The county fair was held on the 6th of October. On October 26th Jehu Hay-

worth and James Swearingen who were running a threshing machine, and were threshing at Orrin Bardwell's, just over the line in Silver Lake Township, had their machine, horses and harness burned up. Mr. Bardwell lost all his wheat and oats together with his barn and about 75 tons of hay. The fire occurred in the night and was caused by a prairie fire. The majority of the people thought the fire was intentional as it was started from one to two miles distant near the outlet of Lake Wilmot, and the wind carried it in almost a direct line to the barns and stacks of Mr. Bardwell. Before the fire was discovered everything was on fire, and they were unable to save anything. This was a serious loss to Messrs. Bardwell, Hayworth and Swearingen. Later the place was called haunted. A party living in the house after Mr. Bardwell left here, circulated the report that in the night-time they could plainly hear horses neighing and rearing around where the barn stood. This is the first instance to our knowledge of any claim of ghosts in the shape of horses in the county. This year the U. S. land office was moved from Winnebago City to Jackson. At the election M. E. L. Shanks was elected representative. This fall Col. Lounsbury built a building on the lots where the Bullard House now stands into which he moved his printing press, and his family lived overhead. This building was later used as post-office, the first bank and as a drug store. It was afterwards moved to lots near where the Ward Machine Co.'s block now is, and from there was moved to the north part of town where it is now used as a family residence. I made a trip to Jackson the 16th of this month to prove up on my home-

stead. It was my first visit to Jackson since my return from the army, and I found they were building up quite a little town, and there was considerable settlement. Between here and Jackson we stopped over night at the sod tavern kept by a Mr. Archer just south of where the village of Sherburn now is. This fall John H. Young, came here and bought the land in what is now Young's addition to Fairmont, took it as a homestead and built a shanty on it. He also bought out John Ellsbury's blacksmith shop, and built a small addition where his family lived during the winter. Mr. Young was also a Methodist preacher, and took great interest in church matters. This building was used as a blacksmith shop from the time it was built in 1866 until 1896. The fall was fine this year, and people were able to prepare for winter in good shape. January 1870 was a pleasant month. The commissioners met this year, present: Wm. H. Budd, John A. Handy and J. A. Armstrong. Hiram Moorman was judge of probate; Amasa Bowen, register of deeds; Thomas Dodd, superintendent of schools; E. S. Snow, treasurer; C. H. Bullard, sheriff; C. A. Lounsbury, county auditor. The weather up to March was fine winter weather. March was a blustering cold month. There came up a storm, which while not very cold, was very blustering, and the air was filled with snow. A brother of Charles Snyder, who now lives north of Fairmont, was lost in going home and buried himself in the snow near where Mr. Bowen lived, and came out alright after the storm. Robert Stevenson, now a resident of the village, but at present on a visit to California, was also lost going home, and took shelter

in a straw stack, which, when the storm abated, was found to be his own and quite close to his house. T. S. Curtis also at that time got lost. There was also a couple of parties by the name of Coleman who lived in the town of Lake Belt, who were found after the storm. They went from the house to the barn to attend to their cattle in the morning. They reached the barn all right, for it was seen that they had done their chores, but in going back to the house they got lost, and wandered away in the storm. When the storm abated they were found, one about three miles from home, the other about five miles, dead, but not frozen. They had traveled in a circle for a long time, at first going within 20 feet of the barn, the circle growing larger. They were easily tracked. The weather was not cold, the snow was moist and their tracks were plainly discernible in the snow, and it was thought the fright of being lost or exhaustion caused their death, some claimed suffocation. There was a story current here at the time which we will repeat but will not vouch for its truth. The story is, that some parties went to the house to do their chores, and on opening the door a cow that was loose, started out, and they grabbed it by the tail and the cow started and ran around the barn and back inside again, and they said the snow was so thick they did not see the cow from the time they started until they got back inside again. This may be an old settlers' yarn; it is not one of our telling. This wind was contrary to the general blizzard it being from the north mostly, and filled the road so that travel was stopped for a number of days. The storm extended as far east as New York, where

I was then on a visit. At the March, 1879, meeting of the commissioners, J. A. Armstrong resigned, and A. N. Faucher, of Center Creek, was appointed to fill the vacancy. William H. Budd was absent, being at the time in New York. Col. Lounsbury resigned as county auditor and moved to Wells, and J. A. Armstrong was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Col. Lounsbury. F. M. Morse was appointed superintendent of schools at a salary of \$300 a year. The Martin County Atlas having been moved to Wells and called the Wells Atlas, having a numerous circulation in this county, was selected to print the delinquent tax lists. The petition of the residents of townships 102 Range 32-33 to be set off as an election district was granted and the first election of town officers was held in April at the house of Perry Munger, and the town was called Manyaska, and also included what is the township of Jay:

Fairmont sustained quite a loss in the removal of Col. Lounsbury who was a public spirited, energetic worker, and who did all he could to assist in building up the town and county. He was interested in a number of schemes for the advancement of this place. His newspaper not receiving the support he thought it entitled to, and having an offer from the citizens of Wells, which was then the terminus of the railway, he moved there. Col. C. A. Lounsbury was man of more than ordinary ability, and since his removal from here has occupied prominent positions, and was at one time a prominent candidate for congress from North Dakota, was postmaster at Bismark, and was connected with



newspapers in Dufuth. I think he is now living at Fargo, North Dakota. As a newspaper writer, he has but few equals in the Northwest. On the 11th of April of this year, I left New Jersey, my old home, there was no farming done there at that time, the weather being too cold. As I came through Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, noticed there was no farming done there, on account of the cold weather, came by the way of Wells, and when I reached there, there was a heavy rain storm, and the wind changed into the Northwest, and it was very cold. It took us a day to travel from Wells to Winnebago City. In coming from Winnebago City to Fairmont with the mail carrier, we frequently had to get out and break ice to get the team through creeks and runways. There was no seeding done until after the 20th of this month.

Tenhassen this year got a steam saw mill moved up from Shelbyville, and there was considerable lumber sawed from timber there. The mill was owned by Dillion, Chubb & Co. Tenhassen at this time was getting to be quite a place. It had a blacksmith shop, hotel, three stores and steam mill. We remember one party who kept store there at that time. He was called "Deaf Bailey," and while he was pretty hard of hearing, he sometimes heard more than he was given credit for. At that time it was customary for merchants to distribute almanacs with full accounts of the weather, etc., and bearing the card of the merchant. Bailey had some with his card on them, and giving his address as 101 Main street, Tenhassen.

In May of this year, Blue Earth county, to whom this county was indebted for board of prisoners, court

expenses, etc., refused to accept our orders at their face, brought suit and obtained judgement against this county. This year a census of the county was taken, and we give the following, which may be of interest to our readers: Population, male, 2,078; female, 1,717; total population, 3,865. There were no colored and no Indians; deaf and dumb, 2; blind, 2; insane, none.

Here is a chance for a conclusion to be drawn as to the state of mind of the early settlers as compared with those of the present, and to account for the cause of insanity. The population was made up as follows: Americans, 3,323; Canadians, 203; English, 37; Irish, 91; Scotch, 19; Swedes, 26; Norwegians, 8; Danes, 3; Germans, 66; Hollanders, 1; French, 2; and Swiss 2. This will show the chances as to nationalities between then and now. This shows an increase in population for five years of 2,495 for the entire county. The number of acres of wheat grown was 7,016; number of bushels raised, 94,773; yield per acre, 13½ bushels. Total number of acres of land under cultivation, 17,460; number of dwelling houses, 863; value of all land, including buildings and structures, \$1,073,755; value of farming implements, \$76,455; number of births, 96; deaths, 15; marriages, 35, and divorces 1; number of acres of oats sown, 2,871; number of bushels raised, 85,575; number of horses in the county, 1,088; cattle, 3,414; mules, 21; sheep, 746, and hogs, 936.

The railroad was this year built from Wells to Winnebago City, which place was the terminus for a number of years, the company being embarrassed, and had quite hard work to keep afloat.

There was an exciting election this fall. The Republican convention for



The nomination of candidates for the legislature for the counties of Martin, Jackson, Pipestone, Cottonwood, Root, Faribault and Nobles was held at Fairmont. There was the strife caused by the railroad interests, and the convention organized by the election of two chairmen and two sets of officers in the same room and held two conventions. Two tickets were made up, resulting in the nomination on one side of George W. Whalen of Blue Earth City for senator, and George O. Chamberlain of Jackson for representative; and on the other side, Clark W. Thompson of Wells for senator, and A. L. Patchen of Martin county for representative. The contest was very warm and bitter. The county gave a majority for Thompson and Patchen on an honest election, as did some of the other counties. In Faribault a nice amount of padding was done; the village of Blue Earth City at that time polling nearly as many votes as it had inhabitants. The same could be said of the village of Wells. As Faribault was the senior county the election returns were made to that county, while the county auditors of all the counties constituted the canvassing board. In some way Blue Earth City knew how many votes it was necessary to have and returned them. The returns showed Whalen and Chamberlain elected. The canvassing board ended up in a wrangle, but a majority certified to the election of Whalen and Chamberlain. A contest was made by Thompson and Patchen which convinced the legislature that the population of some of the villages was not as much as claimed. Whalen and Chamberlain were unseated and the seats given to

Thompson and Patchen. This ended the railroad fight as to points and no points, and left Blue Earth City off the line of the Southern Minnesota railroad. At the September meeting this year, the town 102 range 34 was set off as a separate township and called Rolling Green. The first election was held at the house of L. W. Clark, September 27th. The county fair was held on the school grounds this year. In the fall of this year George W. Tanner and Lyman F. Lent started a paper called the Martin County Review. It was printed in the building we have before mentioned on the Bullard House lots. This year three young men from Faribault county came over here in the fall and stole a yoke of oxen from a farmer by the name of Mead, living on the west side of East Chain. They were tracked into Iowa by the sheriff, who without any ceremony corralled them in a trough, and without any requisition papers marched them into town. As this county had no jail, and the expense of keeping prisoners at Mankato before had been very high, it was thought best to try the experiment of keeping them here. In the absence of Col. Bullard, the then sheriff, the deputy in charge allowed one of them on the excuse of going out of doors to get away. They had all been shackled but in some way they had been able to get the shackles so they could take them off their feet, and when the one started he gave a signal, and the others thinking that the attention of the people in the house would be attracted from them, they started to go down the stairs with their shackles off, when Mrs. Bullard confronted them with a revolver, and held them in custody until help came from the out-

side and their shackles were put on. They were tried and convicted of stealing, but the Judge said as they were young men he could not allow his feelings to be overcome by sending them to states prison, but that he would send them to any jail or reformatory that the county attorney would ask. He was politely informed that if instead of the thieves being punished, this county was to be punished by having to pay for keeping these prisoners in some county jail, he had better allow his conscience to discharge them. What became of them we do not know further than they were kept for some at the Blue Earth City jail. On December 5th the celebration of the arrival of the railroad at Winnebago City was held. The market price of wheat was then 75 to 80c. On the 20th of December of this year, Lyman F. Lent, one of the publishers of the paper heretofore mentioned was buried.

G. S. Livermore came here in the summer of 1870, he already having some property interests here obtained through previous contracts made by his nephew, F. S. Livermore. Mr. Livermore purchased the brick building where he now resides on Lake avenue, which was then occupied by Dr. Chubb and used as a hotel. Mr. Livermore continued in the hotel business, and was quite successful as a landlord, having a good trade. The Hyatt House and the Livermore House were the only hotels here at that time. This building is the oldest residence in the town, still standing on its original site and is in good condition. We mention this as parties desiring to locate here say our soil is unfit to make good brick. These brick were burned here by Capt.

Cheney, and are apparently in as good condition as when laid in the building. There is also a sample of this brick in the basement of the building on Blue Earth and North avenues, owned by Mrs. Colton. We would advise parties contemplating starting a brick yard to look at these brick before making the statement that our soil is unfit for that purpose. There was some plowing done in December of this year. This year Ward & Cadwell built the store building moved off last summer to make room for the big stone block of Houghtaling & Coult. This was a very fine building for that time; there was a hall overhead that was used for the purpose of holding court, entertainments, etc.

January 3, 1871, the commissioners met in annual session. The officers were William H. Budd, chairman; J. A. Handy and A. B. Colton, commissioners; C. H. Bullard, sheriff; J. A. Armstrong, county auditor; L. F. Brainerd, surveyor; E. S. Snow, treasurer; Amasa Bowen, register of deeds; Felix Lane, county attorney; Hiram Moorman, judge of probate; T. S. Curtis, coroner, and F. M. Morse, superintendent of schools.

The Masonic fraternity held their first public installation of officers at this time. Wheat this winter brought a good price, about \$1.10, and farmers began to feel very much encouraged with a market only 20 miles distant. They now began to talk about more and better machinery. The price then compared with now might be of interest. This was long before the time of self-binders. The man who had a self-rake reaper and mower combined had the best made then, and they cost about \$200; a seeder cost from \$75 to \$80, and drills, small size and not

force seed or shoes, cost the writer \$128. Wagons cost from \$85 to \$100. There were no riding plows then and walking plows cost \$90 to \$35. This year Munger & Son, who had a nursery near where the village of Sherburn now is, began to sell nursery stock, and did quite a business. This winter was very mild; no bad storms and wheat was sown on Feb. 10. This was followed by quite a fall of snow with considerable rain which kept seeding back for some time. The people began to agitate the question of having the railroad extended west from Winnebago City, and the proposition of the company to vote bonds was considered, and in some townships special elections were held and bonds voted. The company became embarrassed, and could not get the funds to build west. There was a bill passed in the legislature dividing 300,000 acres of internal improvement land which E. F. Drake, of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad, discovered belonging to the state under an old grant which the United States had certified to the state. This grant was for the purpose of internal improvement, and the legislature thought it could not be used to better advantage than assisting in building railroads in the frontier counties. The bill passed, giving to this county 40,000 acres to aid in building a railroad having connections with Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Mankato, and to run through Fairmont. It incurred opposition of the St. Paul and Minneapolis people who were not settlers of the country, and was vetoed by Governor Austin.

In April of this year, the residence of C. B. Bardwell in Fairmont township, was burned, together with all of his household goods. Mr. Bardwell

was a nephew of the party who had his barns and horses burned at the time of the Hayworth-Swearingen threshing machine fire, and it was thought at the time that they were rather unfortunate. A new town was established this year out of town 104, range 30, and was called Westford. The first election was held at the house of C. W. Pigman. In July of this year Benj. Richardson, who then owned the property where Taylor and Johnson now live, being a part of Taylor & Johnson's addition to Fairmont, became deranged over religion, but he was considered harmless and his friends were taking care of him. One morning, just as the sun was coming up, he started east with the cry, "There comes my father, I am going to meet him," and started only partially dressed and ran east in a direct line toward the sun, not turning out for sloughs or water. He was at once followed; but he disappeared in the tall grass along the creek bottom near where John Scheffs now lives in Rutland township, and all search for him was of no avail, until some days afterwards his body was found floating in the creek.

This year the post office was moved from what is now North Avenue to Main street and occupied a portion of the building in which the *Martin County Review* was printed, Geo. W. Tanner postmaster. This same year J. A. Armstrong built a residence on Lake Avenue, which is now occupied by Mrs. Peter Lund and family. A. Fancher built a house in town and moved to Fairmont. The fair this year was held on the 20th and 21st of September, and there was more interest manifested in the fair than at any previous time. There

were good crops raised, and the farmers continued to enjoy prosperity.

The first cemetery association was formed on November 14th. There were six trustees, as follows: William H. Budd, E. S. Snow, T. S. Curtis, G. W. Tanner, A. D. Cadwell, and J. A. Armstrong. E. S. Snow was president, J. A. Armstrong, secretary, and William H. Budd, treasurer.

At the election the legislative district was changed, leaving out Faribault county. W. D. Rice, of St. James, was elected senator and E. Berry, of Martin county, representative. The commissioners met on January 2d, 1872, and approved the bonds of the following officers: A. Bowen, register of deeds; Hiram Moorman, judge of probate; and C. H. Viesselman, county treasurer. The other officers held for another term. There had been quite a close political contest in the fall of 1871 and the majority by which Mr. Viesselman was elected did not exceed three. Thomas Dodd, his opponent, entered a contest, and nearly all the fall was spent in taking testimony to show the illegality of certain votes. The case was carried into court, and Mr. Viesselman's title to the office was confirmed. Mr. Dodd was a worthy citizen of Nashville, and was previously the superintendent of schools. The expense of this contest is said to have crippled him financially. At this meeting, the salary of the clerk of court was fixed at \$300 including fees. A new town was set off including the town 103, ranges 32 and 33 and was called Bucephalia. M. A. Seymour, who got up the petition and who was a resident of the town had the naming of it and called it after the celebrated war horse of Alexander the Great. The name of the town was

afterwards changed to Fox Lake, and the first town meeting was held at the house of M. A. Seymour on January 18, 1872.

This year G. S. Livermore established trade in the building of Bird & Burdick on North Avenue, taking as a partner S. Hackett, of whom mention will be made later on. They continued as partners until 1874 when Mr. Hackett established trade for himself in the building of E. S. Snow where the building of Neumann & Engelbert now stands.

At the January, 1872, meeting of the commissioners town 105, ranges 32 and 33 asked to be set off as a separate township. The petition was granted and the town called Cedar. The first election was held at the house of B. Crandall on the north side of Cedar Lake. There was at that time quite a little settlement at the north end of the lake, there being two stores, hotel and a blacksmith shop. There was a term of court this winter commencing on the 3d of January. There was quite cold winter weather. Two men got lost in a storm east of Cedar Lake, they having gone to the lake for wood, and got lost coming home, and were frozen to death. Their names were Daniel O'Connor and William Garner. This year Charles Dana, who was a resident of Fairmont, and M. L. Pope, of Fox Lake, in coming from Jackson, got caught in the storm, but they were lucky to find a shanty in which they stayed until the storm was over, and it was the means of saving their lives. At the March meeting of the commissioners a petition was received from the inhabitants of town 101, range 33, asking to be detached from Lake Belt and constituted a separate town. The petition



was granted, and the town called Lake Fremont. First election was held at the house of A. H. Anderson on the 30th of January. At the same meeting a petition was received from the people of town 102, range 33, asking to be detached from the town of Man-yaska. The petition was granted and the new town called Richmond, but the name was afterwards changed to Jay. The first election was held at the house of J. F. Miner on the 30th of January, 1872. At this meeting, the petition of A. Clendenning and others was received asking that the town of 101, range 29, be set off as a new town and called Chain Lakes. The petition was granted and the first election was held at the house of Wm. Hoffman on the 30th of January, 1872. This meeting of the commissioners will go down in history as the "new town meeting." In March of this year an agent for a new kind of wheat visited this county, and made a great many sales. It was called Red Osaka. It was said to be raised in the Red River Valley and to yield an immense amount to the acre. The price paid for it was \$3 per bushel. A great many oats of a new kind and called the Surprise were sold here, and those who bought them were surprised when it came to harvesting.

In this year Willie Snow built a part of what was known as the Fairmont House, which was at that time considered first class in every respect. This building with its additions were taken down and moved away in 1894, being on the lots where the First National Bank, Smith & Viesselman's and Fancher & Donaldson's blocks now stand. Byron St. John also came here this year and settled in Fraser township. In the summer of '72 the people of this

county learned that an English-American, reported to possess fabulous wealth was looking up locations on Elm Creek, with a view to settling a colony. Some of our people investigated and found that a party had been there and had partially made arrangements for taking a large amount of land, but had gone from there to St. Paul to confer with the railway company in relation to their lands, the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad grant including the land on Elm Creek. Fairmont people took an interest in the matter with the result that H. F. Sherman was introduced to our people and induced to take land for his colony from the Southern Minnesota railway lands lying south of Fairmont. One reason Mr. Sherman was selecting the Elm Creek location was, that it was then supposed that when the Southern Minnesota railway was built west from Winnebago City, it would follow the north side of that creek.

There was quite an exciting presidential election this fall, and a great many Republicans and Democrats joined hands to support Horace Greely. Mr. Sherman had his first introduction to our people as an orator at a political meeting held here in which he advocated the cause of Greely. He left here and went to New York where he assisted in the Greely cause in connection with Chauncey M. Depew and others. We have occasion to speak of Mr. Sherman and the work he accomplished for this county later on. This year Dr. Chubb purchased the newspaper of Geo. W. Tanner, and ran it for a short time, and then resold it to Mr. Tanner who moved it to St. James, receiving a bonus from the people of that place, as they required

his aid in a county seat war with Madelia.

In May of this year Henry C. Viesselman, age 45 years, and John Viesselman, age 22 years, relatives of William and Henry Viesselman were found dead in their house. It was as a great many other buildings here at that time, a sort of dug-out in the side of the hill, and covered with earth, and it being very wet, the weight caused the poles of the roof to give away and buried them, and when they were found they were dead.

At the 4th of July celebration held this year the ragamuffin show was first introduced in this county, and was a great success. The grain this year had a large growth of straw, but the grain yield was very light. This year Felix Lane moved away and M. E. L. Shanks was appointed county attorney to fill the vacancy. At the commissioner's meeting in September, town 103, range 31 was detached from Waverly and Fairmont, and constituted a new town called Fraser. First election was held at the school house, known as the Sand school house.

There was a very early fall this year and some very cold weather; the thermometer standing at 30 below zero several times during the month of December. January 7th, 1873, commissioners met. The new officers were M. E. L. Shanks, attorney; A. Fancher, surveyor; and J. A. Armstrong, auditor. On the 7th of this month there was a few inches of snow on the ground. There had been some very mild weather, and a crust had formed which was quite hard. It was warm and pleasant with a southerly wind until about three o'clock in the afternoon, when it suddenly changed, and the wind came up so strong that one

could not face it. The sky became dark and the air was filled with drifting snow. The wind was strong enough to break through the crust of snow, and in a short time the air was so filled with snow that one could see no distance whatever. A great many people were in town and were unable to get home. Some parties living at East Chain had gone to the lake for timber, and the storm caught them on the way home. Some of them were fortunate enough to reach shelter, but two men were frozen to death. They were tracked for a long distance and were found across the line in Iowa, having become separated from their teams and from each other. One's name was Foster, and the other I have forgotten. These, to my recollection, are the last cases of parties freezing to death in this county. In March of this year was formed the first organization among the farmers called the Grange, which held regular monthly meetings and had a large membership. They also had what was called the Grange supply store in the E. S. Snow building. They also had arrangements made by which a list of dealers in different kinds of merchandise in the larger towns who would make special prices to farmers was placed in the hands of the members. The store did a fair business for a short time, but the business gradually went to pieces on account of the jealousies and quarrels of the members. Then, as now, farmers' organizations to work together, failed for the reasons we have given, while other branches of trade and employment have organizations which are successful. The farmers seem to fail in that respect.

The commissioners met in January,



1872, present; William H. Budd, A. B. Colton, and George J. Tower. Dr. Chubb resigned his position as county physician and Dr. D. W. Hunt was appointed to fill his place.

This year Mr. Shearman came with the first installment of his colony. He built the house on what was known as the two flag farm. The parties who came at this time were: Cecil Wray, E. Cole, and D. McKay. Mr. McKay's land was in Tenhassen and Silver Lake, he had a section. Mr. Cole had a quarter section in Tenhassen and Mr. Wray took land in Rolling Green and Tenhassen. They at once began to break land for a crop and used a great many teams, and began to do business on a scale surprising to our people, from 50 to 100 teams being employed in breaking. Their intention was to raise a crop of beans on the breaking. Mr. Shearman had previously visited Brockport, New York, the bean center of the universe, and was well posted. They had a car load of beans shipped from Brockport, had men to follow the breaking teams and plant on every second furrow, some of it being done with little hand planters, but mostly by little holes chopped through the dirt with an axe and the beans dropped through. It is estimated they had over one thousand acres put in in this way early in the season. They grew and looked very fine, and had it not been for what occurred afterwards, and through no fault of the parties, they would, to use a slang term, have been a "howling success," and there would have been big money in them. These parties gave employment to a large force of men, and made times lively as they were able to pay cash for everything.

Early in June reports began to be

circulated that the grasshoppers or Rocky Mountain locusts were working this way from the Dakotas, and were destroying everything. Our people placed little credence in the report, but on the 8th of June they had reached Jackson County, and then we learned that it was no fiction. They were traveling with the wind, and if the wind was favorable, they would of course make about ten miles a day, but they adhered strictly to a particular direction. On the tenth of June they had reached the western border of this county, and parties from Fairmont drove out to see them, and ascertain if the reports were true as to numbers. They returned and corroborated what we had previously heard. The wind being in the south and southeast they remained on the western border of this county for several days, but the first northwest wind brought them here. This was the 18th of June. About ten o'clock of that day the advance guard began to drop down, and soon they came like a snow storm until the ground was nearly covered. Like an army in a strange land without supplies, they lost no time in commencing business. Gardens were soon destroyed, but what they particularly sought after was the English colony's beans. In 24 hours it is estimated that there was not a bean stalk left. Some of the farmers had considerable tobacco growing and it was also their particular delight to eat this and then sit on the fences and squirt tobacco juice all over the country. Some people had never before seen these animals, and they were a great curiosity. Many were the conjectures and theories as to how long they would stay and how much damage they would do. They only scat-

teringly covered a distance of 20 miles east of here. They had previous to reaching here almost run their course of destruction, as experience shows that their term of life is limited. They began to lay their eggs, which was done by boring in the ground and depositing a cocoon of eggs, which was sealed up. Some of our learned men who investigated the matter said there were three classes of locusts, one class called borers, which bored the holes, one called layers, which layed the eggs and the other called sealers which sealed up the holes. One could take a spade or a knife and by digging in the ground in places a foot square, produce a thousand eggs. Do not understand this as saying that the ground was all so full, as they appeared to select particular places. They ate off the leaves of the corn stalks and off the grain, and in some instances ate the heads off the grain around the edges of some of the fields, and where the straw was young and tender, they ate it down, but did not fully destroy it. It was estimated that there was from one fourth to one half a crop of corn and grain, but the gardens were a total failure. They were here two or three weeks. When they left us, scientists claim they had fulfilled their mission, and they would disappear in the air, and some would die before alighting again.

The English colony replanted a large portion of their beans, but it was late in the season, they were caught by an early frost and destroyed. Some of them were harvested, but the expense of sorting the poor from the good was so great, and as they all had to be hand-picked, it was about all they were worth. The advent of these locusts and the damage

they did was a serious drawback to the prosperity of our people who were just beginning to get in good shape financially and get their land under cultivation. It was claimed at the time that the locusts would do us no damage the next year, as our climate was such that their eggs would not hatch, and that one winter's frost would settle them. Others who had read up on the matter said they would hatch in countless numbers, which was right, as next year's history will establish. Our English friends were far from discouraged over this mishap. Mr. McKay, who was the chief capitalists, spent a great deal of money among our people for labor. Mr. Shearman's ardor never cooled, he was here for business, and to make a success of the colony, and he made large preparations for the next year. All but Mr. Cole returned to England in the fall, and Mr. Shearman opened an office in London for the purpose of procuring additions to the colony.

At the September meeting of the commissioners the tax levy was made for this year, and the number of county commissioners increased to five, as under the law when 800 votes were cast, we were entitled to five commissioners. The following was fixed as the commissioner districts: Towns 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 29, was the first district; towns 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 30, was the second district; towns 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 31, third district; towns 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 32, was the fourth district; and towns 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 33, was the fifth district. This gave the towns adjacent and in the same range a district, which we believe is preferable to the way it is now divided. At this meeting of the

Commissioners \$400 was invested in a fire proof safe for the records, being the first safe in the county, and such a safe could now be bought for \$75. This shows that competition in business among safe men during the last 25 years has reduced prices. In September of this year, the Grange held a picnic in the grove between Lake Budd and Lake Sisseton.

The county fair was held the 3d and 4th of October. There was quite a little interest in political matters this fall, as there were five new commissioners to be elected, and there was quite a contest for the county officers. J. F. Daniels, Master of Grange, was elected representative. C. P. Andrews, William Bird, T. S. Curtiss, John Strait and William B. Stedman were elected commissioners. J. A. Armstrong, auditor. C. H. Viesselman, treasurer; Allison Fancher, clerk of court; A. Cowen, register of deeds; the county attorney and sheriff holding over.

Artemus E. Ball came here this year and established what was known as the Fairmont Chain. He kept this paper running for about a year, when, like our other newspaper men, he quietly folded his tent and disappeared. There was an early freeze-up in October but later it thawed and farmers had plenty of time to finish their plowing and work in November.

At the Jan., 1874, meeting of the commissioners the matter as to whether any seed grain would be necessary to be furnished to the people of this county on account of the destruction by grass-hoppers, was considered. A letter was received from Hon. J. F. Daniels, from the legislature inquiring into the matter. It was decided to confer with the chairman of each

town board and ascertain if any aid was needed. At this time the state surrendered its obligation against the county for aid furnished in 1867, and the commissioners by resolution rescinded the obligations of the different townships, and surrendered the bonds furnished by the different townships for that purpose. The winter was cold, and it was generally considered that the eggs of our grass-hopper friends were past redemption, but there were some warm days in February, and parties living on Elm Creek came in and reported that on the banks of some of the lakes there they had found some young hoppers, but the report was not credited at the time. The spring was an early one, and wheat was sown in the middle of March.

In July, 1874, G. G. Livermore, who was in business on North Avenue, moved his goods and store building to Main Street. The spring was a dry one, and farmers took advantage of same and got in their crops early. None of them believed that the grass-hopper eggs would hatch or do us any damage. Our English colony received large accessions this year. Mr. Shearman had worked to advantage in England during the winter, and in the spring returned with Mr. Wray, who had gone back with him in the fall, and the new members accompanying them were Cecil Sharpe and George Clouting, who are now here. Others who came at that time but who have since moved away are: H. Atkinson, P. Sargentson, A. Biggs, F. Lloyd, G. Aldrich, T. C. McKean, L. V. Archer-Burton, James Archer-Burton, P. Bowness and John Whittaker, all of whom were single men with the exception of Lloyd, Wray, Sargentson

and Whittaker. P. Sargentson, A. Biggs and F. Lloyd located at East Chain, Wray on Pierce Lake, C. Sharpe, G. Aldrich, T. C. McKean, in Rolling Green and Tenhassen, and the Archer-Burten and Bowness in Silver Lake and Fairmont. Mr. Whittaker purchased the Dana farm just north of town, now owned by William Struckmeyer. They agreed with our people that there was nothing to fear from the locusts, and began active preparation for cropping the land broken the year previous, and arranged for a large amount of breaking to be done on new land to be planted to beans. They represented a large amount of capital, and gave employment to a large number of men.

In April the locusts began to hatch. They were little tiny chaps, and the people said they could not stand the cold nights and the frost, but it did not appear to effect them in any way except perhaps to make them grow better, as when the ground was frozen they would be in a comatose condition but as soon as the sun came out warm, they were lively enough. They were not old enough to do any particular damage until about the last of May. They were busy moving back and forth, and on cold nights would gather together in great piles. In the warm sun they would spread out over the fields, and move around at a pretty lively rate, but always in a systematic manner. In June we had two days of such hard rain that the ground was flooded, and it was predicted that this would finish them, but when the storm subsided and the sun came out, they were still ready for business. In June they commenced on the grain fields, and by the last of June had cleaned them out.

They ate the corn, grain, potatoes, and in fact nearly everything. Timothy was their especial delight, but prairie grass was a little tough for them. They would invade the houses unless the doors were kept closed. As fast as the beans came up they were taken off, but still our English friends kept planting, and some beans were raised on plantings which had not come up at the time the locusts left us. It is idle for us to try to tell the damage done by these pests. Many of our settlers were here then, and we refer our readers to them. There was a mass convention held in Fairmont on June 27th to take into consideration means for the relief of citizens. The meeting appointed a committee, whose appeal for aid we publish. Each township was represented at this convention, and a report was made from each township by the officers of the township. Among the members present who took active part were: Thomas Nicholls, of Pleasant Prairie; Judge Shanks of Fairmont; A. C. Hand of Silver Lake; H. Mormon and L. F. Brainerd of Nashville; J. A. Armstrong and others. The relief committee consisted of John F. Daniels, I. F. Bickford, Rev. E. Berry and Rev. A. C. Hand. The report brought in at this meeting was that a large number of the citizens had temporarily abandoned their farms, and were seeking employment in different parts of the state, but if relief was afforded and seed grain furnished, it was thought the most of these would return and make this county their home. Had it not been for energetic action of our citizens, great suffering must have ensued.

#### BELIEF CALL.

"A great calamity compels the people

of Martin county, Minnesota, through this committee chosen by them, to appeal to their countrymen for sympathy and aid. Most of the disasters which befall communities, care might prevent, skill mitigate, or strength resist. The conflagration of cities, or the bursting of levees, could be guarded against, and sanitary regulations would largely disarm pestilences; yet when these occur, the sufferers find ready relief from willing hands extended to help them.

The devastation of locusts is a thing that no human agency can prevent or check. Compelled as our people are to look famine in the face, we understand perfectly why in all ages, the name of locust has been a word of terror.

By experience we know the facility with which those silent hosts transform fair provinces into deserts.

One year ago, vast clouds of the red legged locust, or hateful grasshopper of the plains, alighted down upon our fields and commenced ravaging. In a month they had destroyed all our crops, save grain and corn, of which, owing to the lateness of the season, a small portion escaped, thus of wheat, about three bushels per acre, on an average.

Our people are exclusively an agricultural people, as early settlers must of necessity be, and hence this disaster sorely crippled them. Several other counties suffered more or less, but none so severely as this. Some little aid was received from the State. Of \$5,000 appropriated by the state, to the devastated district, Martin county, with over one-fourth the entire population, received less than one-twentieth part. Some little aid was given by private parties. A small amount of seed

wheat was also received which divided among a small number of the most destitute, gave them eight bushels to a family. With this help only, our people struggled through though compelled to sacrifice much stock and other property they could ill spare.

But the locusts left the ground literally filled with their eggs. In the following spring, after getting all the information possible concerning the habits of their enemy, our people generally concluded to hazard a crop. In May the locust eggs hatched, and a new host, unconceivable in number, commenced their desolating career, and have not paused till now, (July) when nothing of food for man or beast remains growing on our fields, save in some localities a small portion of the corn, and on this, our enemies are busy at work.

In the year of pioneering our people had to struggle with too many difficulties to get rapidly rich from original property. It is from no lack of industry that this second year of disaster leaves them little to fall back upon. If the disaster was small in extent, the four thousand people of Martin county, could obtain relief without appealing to the country at large. But though our county appears to be the focus of the desolation, the disaster is more or less severe over a large extent of country. Labor will be soon unsalable, for the supply from the devastated districts will far outrun the limited outside demand,

All that industry can do in such circumstances, our people will do to help themselves. If economy could stretch their stinted means over the next fourteen months our people would ask no aid. Hardship and privation are too familiar to us to excite dread, but what

shall we do when labor will not buy us bread, and economy becomes useless because there is nothing to economize?

What shall we do when winter rages wrathfully over these bleak prairies and our children cry for bread?

Countrymen, in our great affliction we reach our hands out to you for aid. If God has bestowed upon you the fruits of the earth, remember they are but his gifts. When the suffering ask for bread, prove not yourselves unworthy of God's mercies by offering them a stone.

Many of us stood shoulder to shoulder with many of you in the struggle which saved the nation's life. Forget not how danger jointly shared, made us brethren and turn not from us in our deep affliction.

Christian men and women! Many among us claim with you heirship to the common Father. He the Master has made you stewards of His goods, is it not his purpose that you extend a generous hand to his stricken children and account it as done unto Him?

It is no unusual occurrence for unprincipled persons to take advantage of a calamity to enrich themselves at the expense of the benevolent. To guard against any such imposition in the present case, if any agents are sent from here the county commissioners will furnish credentials.

Our county has a fertile soil and climate favorable to the growth of most crops. The locust scourge has never visited us till last year. From all we can learn of their habits it is every way possible that they will soon take final leave of us with no unusual demonstration. It is scarcely a matter for doubt that our county would soon become prosperous.

We think we know our countrymen too well to doubt that they will deal with us in the same spirit that they have always dealt with the unfortunate and we will only add further, that money to buy food which can be purchased cheaper in places adjacent to the devastated districts, clothing, flannels, seeds, groceries, dried fruits for the sick, etc., will be gratefully received. All donations should be sent via S. M. R. R. to Winnebago City, addressed to the Board of County Commissioners, Fairmont, Martin county, Minnesota, who will transmit receipts for the same to the parties sending, and apply the donations to the necessities of the people, through the town Boards of Supervisors.

L. F. Brainerd,  
J. A. Armstrong,  
T. S. Curtis,  
Wm. Bird, Jr.,  
T. Nicholls.

Committee.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, } ss  
COUNTY OF MARTIN. }

Personally appeared before me J. A. Armstrong, County Auditor, and T. S. Curtis, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and made oath that the statements contained in the foregoing are true.

ALLISON FANCHER,

Clerk of the District Court of Martin  
[L. S.] County, Minnesota.

At this time there was a great deal of land held under homestead, and permit was given from the land office to remove from the claims temporarily, as will be seen from the following:

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, }  
WASHINGTON, D. C., }  
June 10th, 1874. }

Registers and Receivers, Minnesota—  
Enclosed herewith find copy of an



act approved June 3d, 1874, entitled "an act to extend the time of pre-emptors on the public lands in the State of Minnesota to make final payments."

This applies to pre-emptors on offered and unoffered lands including Fort Ridgley and Sioux Reservations. It does not apply to any pre-emptors save whose claims were not indicated on or before June 3d, 1874, and whose period for proof and payment has not expired prior to that date. To such it gives two additional years to the time allowed by other laws for proof of payment.

"You will give it effect accordingly. Please acknowledge receipt.

Respectfully.

S. S. BURDETT,  
Commissioner.

#### RELIEF BILL.

The following is the text of the bill for the relief of settlers in this section, as it became a law.

**SECTION I.** That it shall be lawful for homestead and pre-emption settlers on the public lands in the counties of Cottonwood, Nobles, Martin, Jackson, Murray, Watonwan, Rock, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Chippewa, and Renville in the state of Minnesota and the counties of Iowa which compose the Sioux City land district and counties contiguous to either of the above exempted sections, where the crops of such settlers were destroyed or seriously injured by grasshoppers in the year of 1873, and where such grasshoppers shall re-appear in 1874 to the like destruction of the crops of such settlers, and be absent from said lands until May 1st, 1875, under such regulations as to proof the same as the commissioner of the general land office shall prescribe.

**SEC. II.** That during such absence no adverse of rights shall attach to said lands, such settlers being allowed to resume and perfect their settlement as though no such absence had been enjoyed or allowed.

**SEC. III.** That the same exemption from continued residence shall be extended to those making settlements in 1874 and suffering the same destruction of crops as those making settlement in 1873 or any previous year.

During all this time the English stood steadfast, and they kept on plowing and seeding just the same. We desire to say that it was the amount of money spent by them in giving employment to our people that saved an immense amount of suffering. Although a very great loss to our English friends, there was considerable amount of beans harvested from the later planting, but as they were mixed with those which had not fully matured, they were in a somewhat damaged condition, and did not pay the expense of harvesting. About the 1st of July the locusts appeared to be fully developed. To our new settlers for further information as to their size, habits of industry, general appetite and condition of health, we refer to the old settlers then here. After they reached their maturity they began to be uneasy, and on clear still days the air was filled with them. By looking toward the sun it was as though the air was filled with glistening snow. They probably would have left us earlier had it not been that some of them were not fully grown and developed. In some soil and locations, they hatched earlier than in others. In driving along the road they would fly up in such swarms in front of the team that care had to be

exercised to keep them out of one's face. About the 10th of July some of the people claimed they were gradually leaving. On the 10th the wind appearing to be favorable, those who were observing say at what appeared to be a signal, immense swarms rose into the air and passed out of sight. There were a few scattering ones left, not many. They could fly as well as birds. At this time there were not very many eggs laid here. Scientists claim that they only propagate their species once in that generation, and as they did not hatch out or return in sufficient numbers to do us any damage the next year, we are inclined to believe it. The state issued a pamphlet giving a description of these locusts, their habits and general migrations, which is very interesting reading. It is to be hoped they will never again visit this county. Our readers do not want to confuse them with the common grasshopper, as they are a separate and distinct species. On page 22 of the pamphlet above mentioned is a statement which we copy:

"The breeding grounds of the Rocky Mountain Locust are among the higher valleys and dry sandy plateaus within the limits of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and a strip the same width extending into British America, the northern limit being unknown. The common impression from their appearance in hot dry years, and their apparent love of warmth and dryness, that they must be natives of a southern climate is not confirmed by observation in any way. They are not found in any numbers in New Mexico, but are found for a considerable distance north into British America. The general course when leaving the mountain ranges appears

to be southeast. The cause which impels huge swarms to charge forth on their raids of destruction are not fully known, but from the suddenness of their appearance it would seem that some unerring instinct draws them across the plains to the rich harvest fields of the Mississippi Valley. But in either case, whether they advanced their lines of battle gradually across the plains or moved by chance, hunger, instinct or prevailing winds, they swooped suddenly down on us across 500 miles of desert. The Mississippi Valley is not their permanent abiding place. Swarms make their appearance in the air, pass on without alighting or alight gradually or in a body, ravage, leave some portion of their numbers behind, and pass on to sections still untouched. Other swarms come and go in the same way, and as the season advances and the pairing time comes, they move more slowly, circling about over the fields, or large bodies advancing gradually, hopping over each other, the rear ranks flying far enough forward to clear the front ranks. They finally disappear without giving any one an opportunity to say exactly how or when. It seems probable they die soon after departing.

In the latter part of June of this year F. A. Day came here and formed a partnership with C. H. Bullard and established a family journal known as the Martin County Sentinel, and the writer has Number 1 of Volume 1 of that paper, published July 3, 1874. This year A. L. Ward bought the building and real estate of T. F. Goff in Fairmont, consisting of blocks 12, 13, 21, 22 and 23. The building was taken apart and one portion moved to lots where Livermore & Rademacher have their machine office, and was

used by A. E. Ball as a printing office and family residence, another part was moved to lots where the Bomboy store now is, and was occupied by Cole, Pepper & Company as a hardware store. The other part was left on the lots and made into a hotel, and was used for a number of years, known as the Older House. Mr. Goff went to Kansas and engaged in the mercantile there, with what success, we are not informed. Mr. Goff brought more capital to this place than any party coming here in the earlier days, and we regret that he was unfortunate in business. He retained his farm in Center Creek, near Granda on which his boys lived a number of years, and it was thought that he would return here and live, but he later sold this also to Mr. Ward.

We take from the first issue of the Sentinel in relation to these buildings. The article is headed "Improvements," and says: "Mr. Ward, who recently purchased the Goff buildings, commonly known as Goff's Ark, which through wear and neglect had become somewhat damaged, has been repairing and remodeling the same, and the result of his labor is three respectable appearing business houses." A stage line between Fairmont and Estherville was established this year. It had previously run from Blue Earth City, our people making connections at Jensen. The Blue Earth City branch was now discontinued. The trips were made semi-weekly.

In June of this year, also, Fairmont's first bank was started by H. A. Munger and William Viesselman under the firm name and style of the Exchange Bank of Fairmont, and occupied the building on the lots where the Bullard House now is, being in the same room

with the post office and the drug store.

Rev. O. P. Champlain who had been for years the pastor of the Congregational church here, moved away in July of this year.

There was no general celebration of the 4th of July this year, but there were a number of gatherings and picnic dinners, meeting more for the purpose of discussing the situation caused by the locust devastations than for celebrating the day. Arrangements were being made by those who could leave to go to the eastern part of the state to work, and had in view for those who remained to assist in caring for their families. This summer Fairmont built a new school house, which contained two rooms, and was two stories high, costing \$2,500. The contractors were Byron & Philip St. John, and they did a good job, as is evident from the present condition of the building, it being the one now occupied as a blacksmith shop by M. Thiede and Mr. Stromberg and Mr. Eiden as wagon shop and painting rooms. It was thought at the time that it would last a good number of years, but we soon found we had to have another building. D. C. Thompson, of Center Creek moved into Fairmont and started a grocery store and restaurant. The town appeared to prosper as it had two newspapers, the Fairmont Chain, edited and published by A. E. Ball, and the Martin County Sentinel, by Day & Bullard; three hotels, one run by G. S. Livermore, the Fairmont House, run by Willis Snow and the Lake House run by E. M. Hyatt. There were four stores, Ward & Cadwell, general store, E. S. Snow, general store, B. F. Chase, boots and shoes and

Perry Munger & Son, drug store. We had a daily stage running between Winnebago City and Fairmont, of which O. C. Gould and Willis Snow were proprietors. This gave us daily mail. We now had six mail routes running through the county, all connecting, and four run into Fairmont, one from Estherville and Tenhassen, one from Winnebago and Center Creek, one from Jackson and Lone Cedar and, Blue Earth City, one from Granada and Nashville, one from Winnebago City through the northern part of the county and one from Blue Earth City running through the southern part of the county. There were seventeen post offices in the county at that time, as follows: East Chain, Center Chain, Tenhassen, Dunnell, Andrew Johnson, Lone Cedar, Fairmont, Rose Lake, Pleasant Prairie, Center Creek, Amber Sperry, Nashville Center, Horicon, May, Benceaphalia and Cedarville.

The professional men in the county at this time were as follows: At Fairmont, Physicians: Dr. D. W. Hunt, and Dr. O. P. Chubb; Attorneys, M. E. L. Shanks, A. L. Ward and H. M. Blaisdell. Rose Lake, attorney, C. W. Hill. Nashville, Attorney, Hiram Morman. Pleasant Prairie, attorney, Thos. Nicholls. Tenhassen, Dr. Eli Denton. Center Chain, Dr. Shaver and Attorney A. L. Patchen.

J. N. Hyde and C. H. Visselman purchased the building formerly as a school house, and moved it to the west side of North Avenue. This building stood where the Syndicate block now is, and was later moved back into the alley and was torn down this winter. The sills used in the construction of this building were a part of the old fort. The summer was quite pleasant after the grasshoppers left, and there was a

great deal of hay cut. There was a large growth of weeds on the uncultivated lands. Some of the farmers who had crops growing on a peninsula out in the lake had some of their crops saved, as the course of the locusts carried them by. Among the parties who thus saved a small portion of their crops were; W. H. Budd, Mr. Ott, George Tanner and some others. With the total destruction of crops, etc., political interest was kept up, and a new party was organized, which was called the Anti-Monopolists. This year T. A. Muffley and Philip St. John had a furniture store here. The amount of flour received by the relief committee up to October 1st, was 38,100 pounds, pork, 2,000 pounds and salt 114 pounds, clothing valued at \$350.50 and cash \$2,368.75.

In October the first term of school in the new building was commenced with D. P. Sackett as principal and Miss Emma Snow as assistant. The population as shown by the assessor's returns this year was 3,533, being a loss from the 1870 census in four years of 332. The fall was a very late one, and those who had gone away to work put up hay as late as October. This fall A. E. Ball, the publisher of the Fairmont Chain, left and finally went to St. Paul and published a paper there. This was the end of our third newspaper. In the fall some of the people who had remained during the summer left with their families for the timber, where they could obtain work, and where the prices of produce were not so high, those remaining taking care of their cattle, etc.

We are under obligations to Houston county, through their commissioners, this year for the donation of \$975 cash to our relief committee. Mr.

Golden started our first meat market here this year. Prior to this, we had scarcely any meat peddlers for our supplies. There were some potatoes grown, and our English friends raised some beans that were planted after the locusts left. Even corn planted on the 8th of July made quite large ears, and while not fully ripe made fair food.

H. H. Fowler, of Elm Creek, while hunting accidentally received the discharge of his gun in his hip, which laid him up for quite a time. Walter Lasby received a very dangerous kick in the head from a horse and it was not thought for a long time that he would live.

D. B. Rice run the East Chain mills. There was quite an excitement at the election this fall, on account of strife with county officers. Edward Bigg, one of our English friends located at East Chain Lakes, was drowned in that lake in the latter part of November. He ventured on the ice, which gave way. He had arranged to bring his wife and children here from England the next year. The number of votes cast at the election in 1874 was 1,100, while two years before there were over 800.

The following amount was received by the relief committee from October 1st, 1874, to January 1st, 1875: Cash, \$1,107.70; clothing, \$764.71; flour, 3,668 pounds; and pork, 140 pounds. This is only what passed through the hands of the relief committee, and does not include private donations sent to individual parties.

The commissioners met January 5th, 1875, present: T. S. Curtiss, Wm. Bird, Jr., C. P. Andrews, R. W. Thomas and W. D. Stedman; J. A. Armstrong, county auditor; C. H. Bullard, sheriff;

M. E. L. Shanks, county attorney; James Bottomly, judge of probate; C. H. Viesselman, county treasurer; A. Bowen, register of deeds; Allison Fancher, clerk of court; N. C. Coates, court commissioner; J. W. Tanner, superintendent of schools; E. M. Hyatt, coroner, and George W. Denning, county surveyor. Rev. E. Berry was our representative to the legislature. In looking over the *Martin County Sentinel* of January, this year, we find the advertisement of the Martin County Bank, A. L. Ward, manager, office in the front room of Ward & Blaisdell's law office. The relief committee had a good deal of flour during the winter for distribution. A petition to the legislature asking for an apportionment of \$5,000 was sent in.

Lieut. J. A. Manley, of the 20th infantry, was sent here by the government to take a list of those needing aid on account of the locust devastations. The United States government appropriated about \$750,000 of which amount this state received about \$30,000 and the balance went to the Dakotas, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and other places.

The winter was quite cold, and a number of parties were caught out in storms, and while no deaths occurred, there were some narrow escapes. Delbert Hubbard was caught out in a storm, and was out about 17 hours, which resulted in the loss of a part of his foot.

The early settlers of this county were under great obligations to our English friends for the aid and assistance given them during the dark times of the locust devastations. The English courage and pluck never let up, and while their loss was heavy, a benefit was derived by the settlers to

whem they gave employment and kept money in circulation in buying horses and cattle and putting up buildings and making other improvements. It is impossible for us at this date to give the names of all the English colonists. To my best recollection the first to come here with Col. Shearman 1873 were: Daniel McKay, Cecil Wrey and Ephriam Cole. In 1874 the additions were: H. M. Atkinson, P. Sargentson, Capt. S. DeCardie, A. Biggs, Cecil Sharpe, G. Aldrich, J. C. MacKean, George Clouting, L. J. Archer-Burton, J. A. Archer-Burton and John F. Whitaker and wife. In 1875 Arthur Lyons, T. C. Smales, Granville Sharpe, A. Percival, J. M. Farrar and family, K. F. F. Belliars and family, Capt. Belliars and family, G. F. Guion, F. A. Paterson, wife and brother, I. Jarvis Edwards and C. P. Cunningham. It will be observed that very few of these parties are now here.

In the spring of this year D. W. Hunt and Otis Skinner under the firm name of Hunt & Skinner purchased the Ward & Blaisdell building and established a drug store. Ward & Blaisdell then built a new building in which the Martin County Bank was kept for a number of years. Col. Smith, who was appointed to make a list of those needing aid reported in this county 1,369. For seed grain there were 620 applications and there were 6,100 bushels of wheat apportioned to the share of this county. This year the Grange discontinued their store and settled with E. S. Snow who had had charge of the same, and the goods together with these of Mr. Snow were sold to Samuel Hackett. O. C. Gould got the contract for hauling the government relief goods from Winnebago City here, consisting

of flour, pork, clothing, etc., and estimated to weigh about 30 tons. This year Arthur Moro came and investigated the country, his father previously having made a large purchase of real estate through Capt. DeCardie. On his return to England, his report of the country was such that his father and family came here the next year of which mention will be made. I think it was this year that J. Houghtaling came here and purchased the hardware business of Ward & Cadwell, which he continued until his death, and the successors of whom is the present firm of Houghtaling & Coult. The firm of Ward & Blaisdell was discontinued, Mr. Blaisdell continuing the practice of law, and Mr. Ward devoting his entire time and attention to the banking business. J. M. Farrar purchased what was known as the Ellsbury farm on the east side of Buffalo lake, now owned by Mr. Wake, and Mr. Ellsbury moved to the eastern part of the state. John Ellsbury came here among the early settlers and was in business in this place most of the time as a blacksmith. He was a hard working industrious man, and the people were sorry to see him leave.

In the history published in the issue of April 9th, giving a list of the post offices in the county, the printers inadvertently left out Westford post office which I think was established in 1872 with William Lamont as postmaster. C. O. True was appointed in 1873 and has held the office ever since. Mrs. Sarah A. True most of the time having charge of the office as deputy.

The report of the relief committee made June 1st, 1875, shows the amount of funds received and distributed from January 1st as follows: Cash, \$991.86; flour, \$1292; pork, \$130.35 and



clothing, \$1191 65. Total value of all contributions received by the county through its relief committee not including amounts paid to others or distributed by the United States government or private parties, \$7826.82. On the 14th of June a heavy hail storm went through the northern part of the county, doing considerable damage to crops and buildings. M. E. L. Shanks this year obtained a contract to carry mail from Jackson to Blue Earth City, and was for a number of years a large mail contractor. The 4th of July came on Sunday and a number of local celebrations were held, some on the Saturday previous and some on the Monday following the 4th, thus giving all a chance to celebrate twice. A number of old settlers moved from Tenhassen to California, among them being John Kusig and J. N. Osman and family. On August 17th harvest was completed and some thrashing done.

There was a martial band organized this year at East Chain. Fairmont previously had a brass band. At the meeting of the county commissioners in July, a tax levy was made of 5 mills for county purposes, 2½ mills for poor fund, 1 mill for bridge and 1 mill for school purposes, total 9½ mills. How does that compare with our 4 per cent of this day. At this meeting the name of the township of Monroe was changed to Galena. About this time Jehu Heyworth sold his farm lying between Hall and Budd lakes to T. C. Smales. Thomas S. Curtiss, one of the county commissioners, died this year. He came here in 1864 and always took a prominent part in the affairs of the county. He was a father of Byron Curtiss and Mrs. D. P. Sackett. The returns of the assessors

show that the loss to crops in 1874 by reason of the locusts was as follows: Wheat, 153,810 bushels; oats, 187,116 bushels; corn, 152,698 bushels. This does not include flax, timothy, vegetables, etc., which it is impossible to ascertain. The census taken this year gives the town of East Chain a population of 135, number of legal voters 22; Pleasant Prairie, population 299, legal voters 21; Center Creek, population 267, legal voters 32; Nashville, population 381, legal voters 38; Westford, population 152, legal voters 15; Rutland, population 132, legal voters 18; Fairmont, population 512, legal voters 105; Silver Lake, population 224, legal voters 26; Tenhassen, population 200, legal voters 29; Rolling Green, population 191, legal voters 33; Fraser, population 167, legal voters 26; Waverly, population 68, legal voters 9; Fox Lake, population 142, legal voters 32; Manyaska, population 139, legal voters 32; Lake Belt, population 164, legal voters 18; Lake Freemont, population 199, legal voters 15; Jay, population 119, legal voters 16; Elm Creek, population 104, legal voters 8; Cedar and Galena, population 285, legal voters 32. Total population 2,740, and total number of voters 516. The population was divided among the following nationalities: Americans, 2,990; Canadians, 186; Irish, 73; Welch, 8; Norwegians, 120; Germans, 115; English, 128; Scotch, 17; Swedes, 74; Danes, 14; French, 2; Australians, 5, and all other nationalities, 9. I would here state that the population in 1860 was 150; in 1865 was 143; in 1870 was 3,867, and in 1875 was 3,740. Thus it will be seen that in five years the population decreased 127, caused by the locust raids. The assessor's returns in 1895 shows horses, 2,725;

cows, 2,119; other cattle, 1,164; sheep, 2,196 and hogs, 684. This will be interesting to compare with our present large droves of horses, cattle, and hogs.

The first state teacher's institute was held this year by Prof. Cook and Prof. Morris, assisted by Superintendent Richards, of Faribault county, and County Superintendent J. W. Tanner, of this county. There was a good attendance and considerable interest taken in this work. At their September session the commissioners took action for the purpose of having fire brakes made around the different townships to prevent damage being done by the prairie fires in the high winds, which up to this time had been the means of the destruction of a great deal of property. The new firm in Fairmont this year was Headley & Handy on North Avenue. P. V. Sargentson, of East Chain, one of our English colonists died this year.

The county fair was held October 1st and 2d in Ward's building on North avenue. It had a ladies' department and floral hall which showed a fine display, and also a fine display of grain, vegetables, sheep, cattle, hogs, etc. There was a large yield of all kinds of grain and vegetables. We had no frost until the 10th of October. S. Hackett moved his stock of goods to Main street south of the Martin County Bank. This fall J. H. Older moved his family from Center Creek into the building he had purchased of A. L. Ward on North Avenue, which he fitted up for a hotel and was for years known as the Older House. Election was held on November 2d and there was considerable excitement, and strife for county officers. The weather was cold in the fall, and

on the 20th of November the thermometer registered below zero, and on the 29th of November it registered 22 degrees below. A prairie fire in the township of Rutland on the 3d of December did considerable damage and burned up the house of Mr. Frazier and a large amount of hay.

Allison Fancher bought a half interest in the Hunt & Skinner drug store. In looking up the published list of improvements for 1875 I find them as follows: Munger & Viesselman addition to store, \$560; D. W. Hunt addition to store, \$400; Ward & Cadwell addition to store, \$800; Ward' bank, \$700; J. P. Bird, house, \$500; Luther Ward, house, \$500; J. H. Older, improvements on hotel, \$600; W. S. Snow, improvements on hotel, \$400; J. Houghtaling, improvements on store, \$175; H. Viesselman and brother, barn, \$375; E. M. Hyatt, improvements on hotel, \$200; M. E. L. Shanks, improvements on house, \$200; Belden, house, \$300; T. F. Goff, \$500. Other incidental improvements, \$600. Compare this with the published reports of these times. On December 22d the farmers were making fire breaks by mowing grass, and while the weather was very cold we had no snow. The ground was frozen so that it could not be plowed. At this time the country was thinly settled, and prairie fires once started with a high wind did fearful damage, and the ordinary fire breaks did not protect. On December 24th there was a great horse race on Budd Lake in which F. F. Harlow and Wm. Viesselman and our English friends took great interest.

The house of James N. Lasby was burned this year, 1875, loss was several hundred dollars. A railroad meeting was called by our people to consider

the question of making some move to get some railroad to build here. A committee of five was appointed to confer with the officers of the railroad company. On January 1st, 1876, the Grange had public installation of officers, and a general good time, as it was an exclusively farmers institution they returned thanks for the bountiful crops received. On January 8th Cyrus Hill, father of W. H. Hill, and Mrs. G. S. Livermore died. The members to the legislature this year were J. B. Duffee, senator, and J. A. Everett, representative. Commissioners met in regular session, present: T. W. Hall, C. P. Andross, P. M. Dennis, G. S. Fowler and B. W. Thomas. John W. Tanner was appointed superintendent; Samuel Hackett, treasurer; A. Bowen, register of deeds; C. H. Bullard tendered his resignation as sheriff, which was accepted, and William Bird, Jr. was appointed to fill the vacancy. The agricultural society held a meeting on the 14th of this month for the election of officers. My recollection is, that the constitution provides that the meeting shall be in January, but I now notice they are held in December. At this meeting action was taken to procure grounds. On January 17th a railroad meeting was held, and it was proposed to vote bonds for ten per cent of the assessed valuation, depot to be located not more than one half mile from the court house. Other towns also, voted bonds in the same ratio. But the railroad company never fulfilled their part of the contract and our people were never called upon to furnish the bonds. During the railroad excitement of this time, Eric Olsen first came to the public notice in this county. He surveyed a line for a rail-

road to run south of the school house, and south of the shore of Lake Sisseton.

This winter J. A. Armstrong bought a full-blooded Norman Percheau horse. His name was Marshall Ney, and many of the older settlers will remember him. Mr. Armstrong is entitled to the gratitude of our people for many of the best horses in the county, bred from that horse. Arthur Lyons bought a half interest in the Smales farm, and they stocked it with fine race horses, cattle, sheep, etc. Percy Wollaston and wife came to Fairmont this winter. They had previously bought land in the western part of the county of Mr. Shearman. They came here to see it and to look over the country before moving their family. Mr. Wollaston was pleased with the town but not pleased with his land on the prairie, and he purchased of Wm. H. Budd 200 acres of land, part of which is now Mr. Wollaston's addition and the property where Mr. Wollaston lives, and the land sold by him to A. L. Ward. The consideration paid by Mr. Wollaston for this 220 acre tract was \$4,4000. This land is to-day worth from \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Wollaston let the contract for his present residence and returned to England for his family. He came here with his family during the following summer, and has been identified with the business interests of the town and county ever since. James Mather came here and built on what is known as the Big Farm, which was once owned by Gov. Merriam on Cedar Lake.

At the township meeting this year the question of license or no license was voted upon. The vote stood against license 82 and for license 24.

Compare that with the present sentiment as expressed by the votes. Another effort was expressed for a railroad by our people voting on a question of bonds. The vote on this stood 95 for and 15 against, and still no road. This year some of the settlers who had moved away during the locust times began to come back, among whom were Geo. Lounsbury, Mr. Herick and others. G. S. Livermore sold his store to C. B. Dale, who continued the business at the old stand. New buildings erected this spring were: T. A. Muffley, furniture store south of Feustel's building; H. Blaisdell, office north of Martin County bank building. The farmers were much encouraged and began to talk of getting stock, making improvements, etc.

The English additions this spring were: Percy Wollaston and family, Joseph Ramsdale and family, R. M. Caffall and family, C. Popple and family, Mr. Bishop and family, Mr. Holden and family John Thirwall and family, Mr. Jones, L. Burton, John Lock, F. Townsend, H. W. Sinclair, J. W. Sinclair, and Capt. Wherland and family and C. Royds. Our English friends this year made a great demand for teams and help, and quite a number of people came here to work from other counties. I think G. G. Mayne and Capt. Turner came later. They made a great demand and kept our carpenters busy all the time. All lumber and supplies had then to be hauled from Winnebago City. The roads were quite muddy and wet, and it made an immense amount of hauling for the new buildings. Ward & Cadwell hired a portion of the court house grounds and established the first lumber yard here and did quite

a large business. The English settlers were added to by G. D. Moro, H. Perrin, Arthur Moro and others, and was at high tide and gave the town a very lively appearance. Fairmont was noted for its English colony. We have no means of knowing the amount of money disbursed by them, but it certainly was very large. With a few exceptions they bought land and settled here on the lakes, preferring to build close to each other rather than scatter on the prairies. This year our people arranged for a big blow-out on the 4th of July, and it was a very creditable affair in which our English cousins took an active part, and it is doubtful if ever there has been a more enjoyable 4th of July celebration held here. There were two dances in the town, and in the evening we had fire works, races, orations and a general big time. Rev. Adam Simpson took charge of the Congregational church here and took an active part in getting their church building built. Our English friends had already this year built the Episcopal church, which was the first church building in Fairmont. The Fairmont Grange put in a set of scales for the farmers' use, which was the first set of stock scales in the county. September 11th the commissioners met in special session, called to take action in the making of fire breaks. Each commissioner was allotted certain territory in connection with the township boards. It was thought best not to burn off the prairie grass, so that in case of another locust raid the grass could be fired after they came. Cole & Estes came here this year and established a hardware store on North avenue.

In the fall there was considerable

excitement occasioned by the North-field bank robbery and the killing of some of the people by the Younger-James bandits. They were tracked in this direction, and were supposed to be at bay in the big woods near Man-kato. Like the Indian scares of other days, nearly everybody had seen them, and there were scouts out around this county who at times reported them corralled in corn fields, which was kept up until their final capture this side and west of Madelia.

County fair was held October 12th and 13th at which there was a good display of stock. There was considerable interest taken in political matters this fall. Both parties had candidates in the field, and there were also some independent ones.

Mrs. Preston, of Blue Earth City, started a dress-making establishment and millinery store this year, which was our first exclusive store in this line. During this year a great deal of interest and enjoyment was taken by our English cousins in fox and wolf hunting. The first hunt was started from the lair of Smales and Lyon, who kept fine hunting horses and a pack of trained hounds. This hunt was followed by others later, and was full of excitement and interest. A party of ladies and gentleman with their fine horses, riding habits, dogs and horns would start a wolf or fox and run him to his death or den, and our people who witnessed the race would partake of some of the excitement that they did. It was quite a sight at the lair to see the trophies of the hunt. They preserved the scalp of every wolf or fox killed, and kept it as a trophy.

The member of the legislature this year from this county was H. N. Rice who run on the Democratic and Peo-

ples ticket against P. M. Dennis the Republican nominee and E. Berry, Independent. Good crops were raised throughout the county this year. C. H. and Wm. Viesselman this year built a building on North Avenue. D. F. Swearingen and Ross Livingood were now running a flouring mill at East Chain. Munger & Viesselman built the Bank of Fairmont building which was part of the Occidental hotel, being the part now occupied by the News and H. M. Blaisdell's office. Wm. Viesselman disposed of his interest in the bank to Smales and Lyon, and the new firm continued to occupy the building until its assignment to A. L. Ward in 1879. Charles Platt established a jewelry store here in the Hunt & Fancher building.

The following is a roster of the business houses of Fairmont, January 1st, 1877: Three hotels, four general stores, two hardware stores, one furniture store, two drug stores, two flour and feed stores, one jewelry store, two millinery stores, one harness shop, two banks, one newspaper, two doctors, three lawyers, one veterinary surgeon, one restaurant, two churches, three church organizations, one lumber yard, one meat market, three blacksmith shops, one paint shop, two wagon shops, two livery stables. In secret societies we had the Masonic Lodge, two Granges and the Good Templars. The improvements made in the way of building in Fairmont in 1876 were estimated at about \$30,000. There was a general good time had on New Year's day. There were parties and dances in different parts of the county, and the different churches had services in their buildings and their places of holding meetings.

The Agricultural society had their

annual meeting in January and made arrangements for the purchase of their present grounds.

Commissioners met, present: T. W. Hall, chairman; C. P. Andross, Eric Olsen and J. S. Fowler. J. A. Armstrong, county auditor; M. E. L. Shanks, county attorney; Wm. Bird, Jr., sheriff, were the new officers elected. E. F. Wade purchased the store of Mr. Dennis at Cedarville and succeeded him in business. Mr. Dennis moved to the State of Washington. Annual term of court was held in January, Judge Dickinson presiding. The Grand Jury brought in five indictments, and there were four court cases tried. The market price of wheat was \$1 and oats 25 to 30 cents and corn 40 cents. The Southern Minnesota Railroad Company's lands were sold this year at St. Paul under mortgage foreclosure to A. P. Mann and others who were trustees for the first mortgage bondholders.

On the 23d of February another railroad meeting was held, and it was decided to make another effort to get the railroad from Winnebago, west. H. F. Sherman took the initiative and organized what was known as the Martin County Railroad Company, and had for its directors: Joseph Ramsdale, Frank A. Day, T. Jarvis Edwards, F. A. Paterson and H. F. Sherman living in this county, and they also had some stockholders at Winnebago City and Blue Earth City. The inducements held out to them in the different towns in the way of bonds led them to believe they would be able to run from Blue Earth City to St. James. The officers of the company were: H. F. Sherman, president; F. A. Day, secretary; Joseph Ramsdale, treasurer. We shall speak of their

success in building the railroad later. Our people took a great interest and bonds were voted in this and a number of adjoining towns. A line was surveyed from Winnebago City through Center Creek and Pleasant Prairie and running into Fairmont. County commissioners met in special session on March 20th. The meeting was called to receive and act upon applications for seed grain. There were 60 applications and the amount apportioned to each was \$21.07.

The locusts had again visited the state, but were in the counties north of us largely. Some scattering bands alighted here, and fears were entertained of considerable damage. The day set for the burning of the prairies to destroy them was a stormy day, and it continued to rain for a number of days so that remedy could not be tried very thoroughly. By hard work, those which did hatch were prevented from doing damage, by drawing straw around the fields and gardens where the locusts gathered in the night and burning it. In the counties north of us they paid \$3 per bushel for hoppers. They used a sort of sheet iron pan which they hitched behind a horse and dragged it along, and it was so constructed that when the hoppers jumped in they could not get out again. Some also put tar on the inside of the pan so that when the hoppers once got in they were there to stay. The legislature appropriated \$100,000 to aid in the destruction of the locusts, to be divided among 40 counties. The law provided for the appointment of officers in certain districts, who were known as measurers to whom the hoppers were taken and measured, and then paid for in cash at the rate the county was paying. The



government failed to appoint these measurers and so the county took it up locally.

[Our attention has been called to that portion of the history published last week in reference to the Bank of Fairmont, assignment as being liable to the construction that Wm. Viesselman was a member of that bank at that time. Such was not the case. Mr. Tiesselman having previously sold out, Smales and Lions and others having succeeded to his interest in the same.]

The Martin County Railroad Company began active operations and graded their line from Winnebago well into the town of Center Creek, and from Blue Earth City northwest to connect with the one running here, and it gave employment to a great number of men and teams. But before they had progressed far enough to get their bonds which had been voted, they were obliged to lie down, and the men that did the work on the grade went without their pay. The men only got such pay as the contractors had been able to give them, and the contractors themselves got nearly nothing. This had one effect, it was the means of getting the road we now have.

This year there was also a cheese factory built on the lots where the Livermore machine office now is, being the building now occupied by them. The farmers took a great interest in this, their first cheese factory, and it was a great success and large profits were made the first year. The second year it was crowded to the capacity to which it could not receive all the milk offered. In the second year the shipments were made in very warm weather and the cheese was

badly injured when it reached the market, and this took off a good share of the profits. In the third year the farmers began to drop out and evince less interest. In the fourth year it almost ceased on account of internal strife, and it was later sold to F. S. Livermore and he has since occupied it as a machinery building. What might have been a source of profit was by the jealousies of farmers of each other and a lack of cohesion to hang on and stick together resulted in a loss to the stockholders.

Our English cousins this year were very much alive and rushed their farm work with additional men. There were a few additions to the colony. Some of them indulged a little too much in hunting. It was claimed that the best trained pack of hounds in the United States was at the Lair. Some of the farmers began to object to their running over their fields of grain, and as they could not always guide the course of the hunt, it resulted in some litigation. A boat club was also organized in which there was some trained boatmen. We shall have occasion to make mention of these parties as hunters and boatmen at the exhibition at the state fair later.

The locusts from whom great damage was feared this year left us happily disappointed, with no particular damage committed by them. Harvest commenced early this year, and wages were \$2.00 a day. Our people were very busy attending to their farms and taking care of their crops, and could hardly understand the reports that came in from Philadelphia and Baltimore riots in which merchandise was destroyed and cars burned on account of wages being reduced from

\$1 to 90 cents per day. Such always is history; rural districts pay better wages than the cities. Here let us state that we never could understand why tramps could have any excuse for not obtaining work, as at no time since 1877 when able-bodied men, willing to work could not obtain employment in this county. The fact of the matter is there has been a shortage of laborers, and while this place has been full of tramps begging, the farmers have been unable to get help to take care of their crops. This year P. Wollaston built a store building and established a store. It is the building occupied and the business continued by Sinclair Bros. & Groun. Geo. Lounsberry was his chief clerk. This year Mr. Wollaston and others built a gristmill to be run by wind power on the present location of the Swearingen & Brown mill. The contractor was W. Z. Haight, and was an imposing edifice. Its big wheel was 60 feet in diameter, and had 20 arms and over 100 fans and could be seen for miles. It furnished sufficient power, but the trouble was to regulate it for steady work. It received a good patronage until the wheel was blown down in a heavy gale some time afterwards. There were a number of new school houses built in different parts of the county this year.

Among the people who left the country during the locust devastations were, Wm. Hoffman and Wm. Mitchell, of East Chain, who went to Albert Lea and engaged in the mercantile business. Later Mr. Hoffman returned to East Chain and established his store there. Mr. Mitchell remained at Albert Lea, and is now sheriff of Freeborn county.

David Adams was drowned in Fox

Lake on the 17th of July. He with others went bathing in the lake, and they undertook to swim across the lake, when he went down, and it was a number of days before his body was recovered.

The railroad excitement was at fever height. The company as organized was unable to make payments to the men or to procure any iron for the road, on account of the town refusing to give bonds until a certain portion of the work was completed. Eric Olsen, who was the chief contractor, lost considerable money. A good many people censured him, but we believe Mr. Olsen acted in good faith, believing the company would be able to pay him, but as he received no pay, he was unable to pay his employees. The coolness and good judgment of some of our business men prevented some acts of personal violence, as some of the laborers were very much excited.

We had no frost until October 4th. County fair was held October 4th and 5th, being the first fair held on the present society grounds. The daily stage line from Fairmont to Winnebago City which had been previously controlled by Hyatt & Plaisted, now changed hands, Lieut. Royds buying a half interest. Plaisted and Royds were new accessions to the English colony. H. M. Serle was their route manager, and the line was changed so as to go through Rutland and by way of the postoffice kept by I. N. Stone. Munger & Viesselman sold their drug store to E. P. Gould. F. C. Diehl also opened a new harness shop. This fall the Southern Minnesota Railway Extension Company's surveyors run a line between Winnebago City and Fairmont, but we had had so much

foolishness with the railway companies and bonds, no attention was paid to the matter. Christmas Day, there was no frost in the ground. We had a warm damp fall and the roads were very muddy and almost impassable. The improvements for 1877 in Fairmont were valued at \$37,000, the principal items of which were the store and mill of P. Wollaston before mentioned and postoffice building built by J. A. Everett, being the building now occupied by Peterson & Paterson.

January, 1878, the Grange held its meeting at C. H. Bullard's. January 2d the commissioners met, present: C. T. Andross, G. S. Fowler, T. M. Hall, Eric Olson and C. T. Anderson. J. A. Armstrong was auditor; C. H. Bullard, court commissioner; A. Fancher, clerk of court; A. Bowen, register of deeds; Wm. H. Budd, coroner, and Geo. Dale, county attorney. The commissioners made the following dates for the treasurer to collect taxes: Baker's store in Nashville; G. L. Garrish's residence in Waverly; E. F. Wade's store in Cedarville; J. P. Farmer's store in Tenhassen and at the Lake Belt post office. The members to the legislature were: Senator C. H. Smith and Representative F. A. Day.

The adjourned term of court this year was held in Wollaston's hall, E. St. Julian Cox, of St. Peter, presiding, Judge Dickinson being unable to attend. Senator Wilkinson, of Mankato, was one of the attorneys in attendance. It was our longest session of court up to this time. There was considerable talk about it, as it was claimed that the length of the term was caused by the inebrity of Judge Cox, who later had articles of impeachment filed against him and sustained by the legislature for inebrity

on the bench. Our annual railroad excitement again commenced. At this time the Martin County Railroad Company had reorganized. J. A. Armstrong and Eric Olson, of this county, H. W. Holly and A. C. Dunn, of Winnebago City, and George Kingsley and others of Blue Earth City were the promoters. A proposition was submitted to the legislature that the company would build the road on condition that the land grant to the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, which had expired by limitation, should be turned over to them. This started up the Southern Minnesota Extension Company to a move, and they submitted a proposition to our people, and sent parties to see them. Frank A. Day came home from the legislature, and a meeting was called at which the claims of both parties were heard. The result of this meeting was that a committee of twelve from different parts of the county was appointed to go to LaCrosse to obtain information and definite offers from the officers of the Extension Company. At this time the Southern Minnesota Company was in the hands of a receiver, and it was before its purchase by the Milwaukee Company. W. C. Van Horn, now president of the Canadian Pacific, was general manager, and J. C. Easton financial agent. The committee returned and reported the proposition received, which was in writing, and the meeting unanimously resolved to accept the proposition of the Southern Minnesota Extension Company, as being the one most likely to get us a road. A. L. Ward was appointed to go to St. Paul to assist F. A. Day in getting the transfer of the land grant to the Extension Company, which if

accomplished, the company agreed to take and build the road without bonds. There was a stubbornly contested fight in the legislature over this matter by the conflicting railroad interests, but it resulted in the grant being transferred to the Southern Minnesota Extension Company and of our obtaining the road through here the next season, of which mention will be made at the proper time.

The winter was a very mild one; very little sleighing. Wheat was sown in the middle of March. This year the Village of Fairmont was incorporated and the following officers were elected: P. Wollaston, president; C. H. Viesselman, recorder; G. S. Livermore, H. N. Rice, and O. P. Chase, trustees; O. C. Cole, treasurer; Charles Pratt, justice of the peace; H. H. Bonney, marshal, and J. F. Daniels, street commissioner. As this was the year the railroad was built through here the marshal had fair employment.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton lectured at Fairmont this winter. J. A. Sinclair purchased an interest in the hardware business of J. Houghtaling. A great many settlers came this year, among whom were: Jas. McHench, C. L. Campbell, Col. Fellers and others and took land under the grant to the extension company. D. D. Bunn came as representative of Mr. Campbell, and E. B. and D. W. Feller representing their father, Col. Feller. The Extension Company were offering their lands to actual settlers on the basis of crop cultivation as follows: They allowed \$3 per acre to actual settlers for wild land broken; \$2 per acre for the first crop and \$1.50 per acre for the second crop, and a large amount of land was sold on these terms. George Dresback, of Winona, was

agent of the company in connection with C. H. Bullard. J. C. Pratt came here this year and took land of the Extension Company. The company began work on their line from Winnebago. It had been hoped they would be able to use a portion of the grade of the old company, so as to give some pay for the work done previously, but their surveyors reported that it would be impossible for them to use that line without extra expense. and that it would cost a number of thousands of dollars more to use the line. The work was rapidly pushed forward from Winnebago City west, and the company were also grading west of Fairmont, they building from Winnebago City to Jackson this year. This year the village council granted saloon license, it being the first licensed saloon in Fairmont. We do not intend to say that it was the first intoxicating drink sold here, as there had previously existed what was known as club rooms, sometimes called blind pigs.

Our people watched with interest the progress of the railroad building, and many would drive down the line to see them at work. When the first passenger train reached this place, the depot was a box car, and the first depot was located on the North side of the track opposite Rippe's warehouse. There was no particular celebration on the arrival of the first train, but a large number of people gathered, the band played and the imitation cannon was fired. It was a bright day for Fairmont; for years expecting railroad communication, but financial embarrassment had overtaken the company at Winnebago City and for seven years it remained there. No more staging; teamsters were obliged to seek other



avocations. Communication with the outside world was established, and a new Fairmont was born and has steadily since that time forged to the front. While weary years were passed in waiting, one benefit was derived. No bonuses or bonds were paid and no incubus of debt was on our people. The road did not tarry with us, but went on and the village of Sherburn fourteen miles west was created, and Jackson was reached that fall.

Gideon Smales this year had a small brewery on lots now owned by W. F. Edwards near the Congregational church, and license was granted him to manufacture beer. He afterwards built what is now known as the brewery building near the boat landing.

The East Chain grist mill was doing a good business run by Swearingen & Follett, as there was plenty of water.

The 4th of July celebration this year was intended to be what the western people call a "hummer," not only on account of celebrating the national day but also to celebrate the arrival of the railroad. C. L. Colman started his lumber yard, C. M. Sly being his resident agent and manager. Joseph Ramsdale this year bought of Wm. H. Budd the land in what is now Ramsdale's addition and platted the same. Arthur Pearson ran a first class hotel and boarding house on Main street. On September 10th, 11th and 12th we had heavy frosts which did a good deal of damage to corn. G. C. Chapman built a jewelry store, being the building now occupied as the Cook hotel. J. L. Higgins formed a partnership with H. M. Blaisdell in the law business under the firm name of Blaisdell & Higgins, and they did a successful business. A good many

new settlers came in this year. Our English friends continued to have enjoyable times and gatherings.

Chicken and duck hunting was immense sport in those days. John Cross died in September aged 94 years. Hodges & Hyde and Cargill Bros., established a warehouse and began to buy grain. Ward & Cadwell also bought grain. Wheat was of poor quality, and was graded in four grades; price from 30 to 80 cents per bushel; oats, 20 to 25 cents; potatoes, 20 to 25 cents. Beans which were a large item were \$1.05 per bushel.

H. H. Bonney built the first house in Ramsdale's addition. Our first railroad agent was Cony Shields, who later was one of the managers of the Canadian Pacific, and is now, we believe, with the Chicago & Great Western road as one of its managers. S. S. Hunting, proprietor of the original town plat built a house in which Mr. Shields lived. Mr. Hunting also built a building in our park. These buildings, which were probably of the value of \$1,000, was all the aid and assistance this place ever received from S. S. Hunting by building. We are glad to note that the present owners of the addition are residents and have an interest in the growth of the place. There was considerable interest in the selection of county officers, a number of the old ones being left out. In November there was a robbery at the depot, and about \$150 taken from the safe. The agent suspected a party who had been hanging around the depot. He was traced across the country to Madeira and Mankato where he was arrested. He was tried, convicted and sent to states prison. It was the first conviction for a states prison offense in this county,

and as the county had been in operation for over 40 years, it speaks well for the class of settlers here.

Sherburn made a rapid growth. J. P. Farmer moved his store building from Tenhassen to that place and George M. Scott built a hotel. A syndicate, of La Crosse parties owned the town site, and put in some good hard work. Warehouses, residences and mercantile buildings to the value of from ten to fifteen thousand dollars were put in this year. Lumber yards were established and a full fledged town started. Mr. Smales completed his brewery building before mentioned at the boat landing, and it was thought to be one of the best breweries west of La Crosse. They only got in good operation when financial embarrassments overtook them, and they had to abandon it. The building was later used as a creamery building. B. F. Voreis came this year and formed a partnership with M. E. L. Shanks under the firm name of Shanks & Voreis.

In 1878 the Occidental Hotel was built by the Bank of Fairmont, the firm then being composed of Munger, Lyon and Smales Bros., and they were supposed to be very wealthy. It was an imposing edifice for a town of this size and was built at quite an expense.

January 1st, 1879, was quite cold, the thermometer standing at 32 degrees below zero. January 7th election of village officers was held. J. Hough-taling was elected president; J. L. Higgins, recorder; G. S. Livermore, William Viesselman and H. Pepper, trustees, and E. W. Bird, treasurer. County commissioners met, present: C. P. Andross, H. H. Holmes, T. W. Hall, T. C. Andersen and Eric Olson. George Gale was elected county at-

torney; George Lounsbury, county auditor; William Bird, sheriff; F. S. Livermore, judge of probate, and D. W. Hunt, coroner. The court house being too small to hold the county officers, rooms were rented over Wollaston's store. Our farmers at the present time make complaint about the price of hogs. In the fall of 1878 and the winter of 1879 they were lower than they are now, two cents being the very best price for hogs and \$2.60 to \$2.90 the very best price for dressed pork. The village council fixed the saloon license at \$200. The members to the legislature for 1879 were Senator A. D. Perkins and Representative M. E. L. Shanks.

Our people were much surprised on the 29th of January to learn of the failure of the Bank of Fairmont, who had assigned to A. L. Ward. Smales and Lyon also assigned their partnership property at the Lair and Gideon Smales his brewery and other business and Arthur Lyon his individual property. They were thought to be possessed of ample means, and they had with lavish hands aided the growth of Fairmont and shown great interest in the development of the county. A great deal of their money was expended in building the Occidental Hotel, their last venture, crippling them financially. It was a further surprise that they should have selected Ward as assignee, on account of his being in opposition to them in business. District court was held in the Occidental Hotel. It was a long session, but the building came in very handy, as it furnished rooms for petit jury and trial court. After the inventory list of the Bank of Fairmont was filed and bonds approved, the Martin County Bank was moved into



that building. The expense of this January term of Court which extended into February, was \$2,122.95, being the longest and most expensive term held up to that time.

In February there was a prairie fire in Rolling Green. The wind blew it over the fire breaks and considerable hay was burned, and G. W. Smith had his house burned. On the next day there was a snow storm. County commissioners met in special session on February 11th to submit to the legal voters of the county at their annual town meetings in March a proposition to vote \$15,000 bonds to build a court house and jail. There was considerable interest taken in this, but the vote resulted in 449 against and 375 for bonds. The Sherburn village election was held in April and the officers elected were: President, M. M. Jenkins; council, Geo. Scott, John Augustine, and J. P. Farmer, recorder, S. D. Talmadge, and treasurer, J. D. Young. Sherburn was now but six months old, but it was a moving hustling little town. In a few months it had obtained a size which it had taken Fairmont fifteen years to obtain, all the result of the age of the county and the advent of that great civilizer and builder of towns and cities, the railroad. This spring J. A. Armstrong moved back to his farm in Nashville. For a number of years Mr. Armstrong had been a resident of this place, having been county auditor for the longest period held by any one man up to that date. Mr. Armstrong was a public spirited, energetic citizen. He afterwards moved to Bathgate, North Dakota, the only bad move he probably ever made. He now resides in Winnebago City. We always notice that our best settlers return

after they have tried some other place. People in moving away believe the reports they read of other countries to be the truth, but experience proves them to be but the scum of the truth.

The spring of 1879 was very dry until the 10th of May, so dry that planted grain did not sprout. A great many were praying for rain. On the 10th of May there was quite a general rain. A great many fish were caught this year. We have never said much about fish. Some of the old settlers can tell about the times they had catching fish in the spring in the high water. On the afternoon of the 16th of May there was a great light seen in the West, accompanied by a loud roaring sound and a shock that could be heard quite a distance. Investigation showed that a meteor had fallen just over the line in Iowa, not far from Estherville and had buried itself deep in the ground. Parts of this stone were dug up and exhibited around the country. A part of it was brought to Fairmont and an admission fee charged to see it. It was very heavy and resembled pure iron. If it came from some other planet there must be plenty of minerals where it came from. Some of our learned men stated that it formed in the atmosphere. This year, in June, Capt. Bird and others procured from the state authorities 25,000 young fish, trout and salmon, and put into our lakes. Henry Martin came and visited in the Fowler neighborhood. He had previously been here in 1857 and taken land on Lake Martin in Rutland township. The county was named after him, not because he ever did anything for the county, but because he was in a position by reason of being fre-

quently at Mankato to influence the naming of it for him. This year J. H. Ray rented the Occidental Hotel. The 4th of July was celebrated at Sherburn in great style, it being their first, they made great efforts and it was a big success. Celebrations were also held at East Chain, Nashville and Rutland. Fairmont's first circus came this year, Anderson & Co.'s. It was not a very heavy affair, but it drew a big crowd and they took away lots of money. A Belgian settlement was established in the Western part of the county, some of whom are now there. Silas Mills had his barn struck by lightning and lost a number of horses. Harvest commenced about the 20th of July. The Odd Fellows formed a lodge at this place, J. A. Houghtaling, V. G. Robert Hines built his store on the corner of First street and North avenue, being the building now occupied by E. J. Edwards. There were a good many hunters came to hunt prairie chickens this year, and camped along the lakes. There was a great many sheep brought into the country, farmers thinking they paid the best of any branch of farming. Threshing began very early. Our first traction engine was owned by J. W. Fuller. It was quite a curiosity to see it. At their September meeting the commissioners changed the boundaries of the commissioner districts so as to make Lake Belt, Lake Fremont, Mankaska and Jay district No. 4, and Elm Creek, Fox Lake, Cedar and Galena district No. 5. There was a great many new farm residences put up this year and considerable improvements made in Sherburn and Fairmont. Both places feeling the benefit of a railroad.

The board of audit in session in

September in examining into the books of the treasurer and auditor found a large shortage in the county treasury. Samuel Hackett was treasurer and had been for a number of years. He had been considered honest, some even naming him "Honest Sam." He admitted to the board of having used some of the funds in building a hotel at Sherburn and in his store business here. A meeting of his bondsmen and the county commissioners was called, and after they had investigated the matter Mr. Hackett made them the proposition that if they would allow him to go East he could raise the money among his relatives and make the shortage good. By agreement F. S. Livermore took charge of the office and the bondsmen of Mr. Hackett advanced him the money necessary to take him East, but he never returned. It appears from subsequent investigation that it was questionable whether or not the bondsmen could be held as the delinquency or at least a part of it had occurred during a previous term of office. A compromise was afterwards made with the bondsmen who finally paid the county, Mr. Hackett turning over to them what property he had here, but they did not realize very much from it as the property was badly mortgaged. Following is a list of the bondsmen of Mr. Hackett: J. M. Lasby, L. N. Drake, Wm. Suter, Frank Rodgers, J. A. Everett, Wm. Bird, Wm. H. Budd, F. S. Livermore, Josiah Smith, C. H. Bullard and G. F. Pixley.

Geo. Wohlheter, who had previously come here and who was in the employ of Ward & Cadwell, was married on the 14th of August to Miss Minnie Peton, of Milwaukee.

On October 24th Jesse Packard, of

Manyaska, while hunting was accidentally killed. On November 4th the lakes were frozen over. At the November session of the commissioners Cecil Sharpe was appointed coroner.

By formal resolution Samuel Hackett was removed from office of county treasurer and F. S. Livermore was appointed in his place. There were very serious prairie fires during October. At the county fair this year there was such a downpour of rain that people were unable to go home. The grain elevator of Cargill & Van was burned on the 21st of November and a large amount of grain destroyed. December was a cold month. The Fairmont Village council reported a balance of \$238.57 in the treasury. The improvements for this year in building was \$19,787. Number of births in the county for the year ending December 31st, 1879, was 167 and number of deaths 51. January 1880 the weather was very changeable. On the 1st it was warm and sloppy.

Village election was held on the 6th of January and considerable effort was made on the license and no license question. The no license carried. J. Houghtaling was elected president, and Lounsbury, G. C. Chapman and Wm. H. Budd members of the council and J. G. Swearingen recorder. H. R. Rouge had a New Year's present in the shape of a baby but a few hours old left on his doorstep, with the following note attached: "Take care of this child until called for. If you won't be rewarded in this world, you will in the one to come." On the reverse side of the card was written "A New Year's gift. \$2.00 enclosed for clothing." The Sherburn Village election resulted in the election of M. M. Jenkins president, W. C. Persons, T. D. Talmage and

O. P. Empey members of the council, John Augustine recorder and J. P. Farmer treasurer.

Commissioners met January 6th, present T. W. Hall, C. P. Andross, E. F. Wade, Thos. Patton and H. S. Holmes. Geo. Lounsbury was county treasurer, A. Bowen register of deeds, J. L. Higgins county attorney, D. P. Sackett superintendent of schools, C. H. Bullard court commissioner and William Bird sheriff. The commissioner arranged for a loan of \$1,000, money to be used for court expenses. The agricultural society met on the 4th of January and J. F. Daniels was elected president, F. A. Day secretary and H. A. Munger treasurer. Sherburn this year granted saloon license, what would now be called low license, fixing it at \$100. Some of our English friends began to get into embarrassed circumstances financially. They had spent their money lavishly for the good of the county, but the returns had not been what they expected. R. M. Cfall, T. C. Smalles, Capt. Bellairs, Mr. Bishop and their families went to St. Louis, some others went to Australia and some to St. Paul.

Charles Ashton lost his wallet some time during the winter, said to contain about \$250 in money and \$1400 or \$1500 in notes. Our term of court this year was not very long. At their March session the county commissioners decided to submit to the voters of the county the question of bonding the county for \$12,000 for the purpose of building a court house and jail. The result of this election as canvassed by the board was for bonds 481 and against bonds 445. The total vote cast was against bonds, the township of Fox Lake casting 47 against them, but it was thought there were some irregu-



larities as the returns were all made in one handwriting and the signatures of officers to the returns being in one handwriting, and it being about the time in the Southern states that returning boards decided elections by throwing out or canvassing such as they desired, our officials patterned after them and threw out the entire vote of Fox Lake, which left 26 majority for bonds. If the vote of Fox Lake had been counted there would have been a majority of 27 votes against bonds. Before the bonds were issued Eric Olsen and others brought suit to obtain an injunction, but not desiring to anticipate the result, we will leave this for a short time. A party by the name of Sincombe had been making his headquarters here and at Mankato talking up the idea of a wooden railway to connect this county with the timber country around Mankato. He had an invention of his own, an ingenious contrivance something after the style of a hand car, with a sail attached, in which he made trips between here and Mankato, managing to keep off the time of regular trains. While making a trip from this point to Mankato, when between Winnebago City and Delevan, a wild train with a snow plow attached came along and met him with the result that himself and car were thrown into the air. The car was wrecked and he was killed without being seen by the trainmen. At the March meeting of the commissioners the bondsmen of S. Hackett not having made payment a resolution was introduced and passed ordering the county auditor to commence suit against them. The chairman of the board of county commissioners, the county attorney and the county auditor were instructed to confer with

the attorney general and public examiner with relation to having a full examination made of the books and and the vouchers of Mr. Hackett, in order that the county might be provided with proof in its suit against the bondsmen. In April of this year Col. C. H. Bullard sold his half interest in the Martin County *Sentinel* to Burt W. Day. An assignee sale of the Bank of Fairmont and the Smales & Lyon property was made. Notes representing over \$7,000, sold to A. D. Cadwell for \$1815 and a set of abstract books costing the bank \$1,000 were sold to H. W. Sinclair for \$75. The committee in session with the bank examiner reported the shortage of Samuel Hackett at \$4266.25. The expense of the term of court this winter was \$2757.84. Taking into consideration the expense of the term of court, the treasurer's defalcation, the failure of the Bank of Fairmont and other individual failures it did not look very promising for our people. Dr. Chubb, who had moved away, came back this year and purchased the block of lots where V. Weheter's house now is, and set out some evergreens.

The Victoria wind mill fans were blown down this year. F. F. Harlow leased the Occidental hotel and took possession of same. The school district built an additional school building 25x40 feet. On June 3d there was a very heavy wind storm and tornado and hurricane. The wind blew down a great many trees and the circus that was here at the time had their tents blown down and their horses and other animals stampeded and the fat man and fat woman were blown over into the ditch. On the north and northwest of us the wind blew down a number of houses and barns and

broke down a lot of timber. It is remarkable that there was as little loss of life as occurred. In Frasier township the house of Julius Goetz was blown down. There was a number of people in the house at the time. Mr. Goetz was killed and a number of others badly injured. This place was on the outskirts of the storm. It was a very heavy wind, and before it struck us the roar could be heard for at least ten minutes. On the north side of the buildings a great many windows were broken.

Ozell Sharpe started an agricultural implement business this year. In June of this year while cutting grain A. M. Welcome found the body of a man near his place in the edge of the timber. Who he was, where he came from or how he met his death has not been ascertained. Coroner Sharpe had an investigation and buried the body. In July a side-track was put in where the village of Welcome now is, but no station was established, simply a shipping point for grain. Harvest was very fine, good weather and a fair yield. The auditor and treasurer at this time had their office in the Wollaston building on North avenue. We had a heavy frost on the 13th of September. Hog cholera was very bad this fall, a great many losing all their hogs. The 1880 election resulted in the election of the following men: J. A. Armstrong representative, M. E. L. Shanks county auditor, William Bird sheriff, F. S. Livermore probate judge, J. L. Higgins county attorney, A. N. Fancher county surveyor, C. P. Chase coroner, and C. H. Bullard court commissioner. On October 15th the day was somewhat cloudy and cold with a northeast wind. Commencing with a rain it turned into a snow and before

the morning of the sixteenth a howling blizzard was raging from the north west. The passenger train was blocked and stuck in the snow between Sherburn and Jackson. There were some bad drifts, and there was much suffering on account of the people not being prepared for winter. The snow stayed a number of days and it was quite cold but it finally went off and we had some fair fall weather, but an early winter. This fall the LaCrosse Board or Trade made an excursion along the line of the Southern Minnesota railway and stayed over night here. They had a jolly time. The returns of the census as taken this year shows the population of the county to be 5253, being an increase since 1875 of 1515. We had a quite bad snow early in November, and quite cold weather. Snow drifted badly during November and December and the railroad company began to experience trouble in keeping their line open so as to run their trains. There were a great many cases of diphtheria this year. We forgot to state that in the previous year the suit brought by Eric Olson and others to prevent the issuing of the bonds was compromised and settled in some way. Not being on the inside we do not know how, but the result was that the bonds were issued and the court house was built the next year, of which mention will be made. At the January term of court the railroad became blockaded and it was impossible to keep the road open and the attorneys and judge in attendance were obliged to take teams and drive across country in order to get home. At this time the railroad company had not had all their cuts fenced with snow fences, and as the snow was very deep it drifted in almost as fast as it could be shoveled out. A

force of shovelers estimated at 200 were kept at work on their line of road this side of Wells. Fairmont got a few trains, very few, and for a long time were without trains. The company finally succeeded in opening the road to a point within about five miles of us and our business men turned out to the number of about fifty and went down and tried to help get a train through to us that night, and worked in the cut at the gravel pit in the hope of being able to clean the cut in time to get the train through to us that night, but were unable to do so, and the result was the wind raised in the night and the cut was level full of snow the next morning. West of us the blockade was not raised so that a train could reach Flandrau until the 21st of April. Teams were brought into requisition to haul supplies and carry mail, we having to carry our mail by team clear from Wells. People used sort of snow sleds with sails. The snow was so deep it was impossible to drive teams and supplies were hauled by hand on hand sleds. The streets were blocked and tunnels were cut under the snow. There were in existence a number of photographs taken at the time of the snow blockades showing the cuts and different parts of the road with the shovelers at work. As they had thrown the snow out a number of times, it became so high that a man could not stand at the bottom and throw it out, so they would toss it up on to a sort of scaffold and the men there threw it out of the cut. There was a tunnel cut under at Houseman's meat market on North avenue, crossing the street on the east side, so that a team could be driven in under it. The meat market then was near where the Pfeiffer saloon now is. We

are not satisfied as to the number of days our railroad was blocked or as to the time when the blockade was finally raised as to this place, but it was late in April before any seeding was done. The water was very high, caused by the immense body of melting snow. The first seeding that I know of being done was on the 26th of April. A part of the time during the winter this was headquarters for the snow shovelers. They had a train and worked in both directions but were unable to reach Jackson or open communication with Wells. They also had a gang at work this side of Wells and a gang west of Jackson. The longest term of blockade for Fairmont was 19 days, but there were a number of short blockades varying all the way from a week to fifteen days. When a train did get here, their instructions were to immediately return to Wells as a raise in the wind meant the filling of the cuts. During this time the weather was very cold, the thermometer registering as low as 33 degrees below zero. The timber was drifted full and farmers had great trouble in keeping roads open to their barns or get their cattle to water or haul hay for feed. Two saloons were licensed this year for \$150 each. The commissioners let the contract for the building of our present court house and jail to J. A. Smith for \$9,242.10. After the snow blockade was raised, the people were bothered in getting supplies on account of the high water in the country. The railroad company profited by the experience of that winter and protected their cuts with snow fences. Since then there has been but one or two instances of blockade, and then only for a day. The building of the court house progressed rapidly and it was



completed in the fall and occupied by the county officers.

From this time a period of only 15 years exists to the present day. It has been our aim to give an early history, commencing with the first settlers in 1856 and extending to 1881, a period of 25 years. Since 1881 there are but a few settlers who are not acquainted with the events which have transpired in that time, and we judge it would be no information to those who were here, although in talking over the events of the last ten years there is a difference of opinion as to memory and circumstances. For the first five years, settlement we could mention the name of every family who were residents of the county, perhaps for a longer period until the passage of the homestead law which gave to each actual settler 160 acres of government land, which brought in a large increase of settlers. We have spent a great deal of search and inquiry in order to get an official statement by the census of the condition of this county in 1860. That would be the first census after the settlement of the county. We find that the population of the county in 1860 was 151, in 1865 1,430, in 1870 3,867, 1875 3,738, there being a decrease between 1870 and 1874 of 129 caused by the locust devastation. In 1880 5,253, twenty-four years' growth of the county; showing that it took 24 years to make a population of 5,553. Our people at this time would consider this a very slow growth to take place in a quarter of a century. We have been unable to obtain a census of the live stock, cultivated land and agricultural product of the county in 1860. The first census of this county as to live stock to be reported was in 1865 at which time Martin county had 189

horses valued at \$10,134 the average value being \$53.62. The census of 1880 gives the horses in the county as 2,605 valued at \$130,357. In 1865 the census gives the number of cattle including all kinds as 1,107 valued at \$16,447, average value \$14 04. In 1880 the total number of cattle was 8,194 valued at \$103,860. The number of sheep in the county in 1865 was 1,345 valued at \$4,982 average value \$3.72 the number of sheep in 1880 was 13,852 valued at \$27,760. The number of hogs in the county in 1865 was 61 valued at \$181, total number of hogs in the county in 1880 was 2,871 valued at \$5,856, average price \$2.04. There were no mules returned from this county in 1865 the number returned in 1880 was 87 valued at \$6,560, average \$67.62. The census of 1880 shows this item which is of interest. There were 1,821 acres of land planted to timber on which the state was paying bounty. The number of rods of trees planted on highways and farms was 15,207 to 47 miles 167 rods. This number has been increased in the last 16 years so that our people can readily see why this county at the present time has the appearance of a timber country and our groves have taken the place of unbroken prairie.

The first census giving the number of acres of land cultivated and the amount of cereals grown which we have been able to find is for the year 1868, at which time there were 4,474 acres under cultivation.

Following is the statement of the agricultural products of the county for 1869:

Wheat, acres sown 7016, bushels raised, 94,773; average yield, 13 bushels. Oats, acres sown 2,871; bushels raised, 85,575; average yield, 30 bushels. Corn,

acres planted, 1114; bushels raised, 36,400; average yield, 32½ bushels. Barley, acres sown, 144; bushels raised, 3,250; average yield, 22½. Buckwheat, acres sown, 31; bushels raised, 281; average, 9 bushels. Potatoes, acres planted, 200; bushels raised, 16,734; average yield, 83½. Dairy products were 79,336 pounds of butter and 2,040 pounds of cheese; Flax, acres sown, 5; bushels raised, 50; average yield, 10 bushels. Number of sheep 556. Number of pounds of wool, 2,046. Number of acres of deeded land in the county, 2,550.

Following is the statement of the agricultural product of the county in 1880:

Wheat, acres sown, 11,682; bushels raised, 85,120; average yield, 7.29. Oats, acres sown, 7,624; bushels raised, 268,866; average yield 35.39. Corn, acres planted, 8,370; bushels raised, 262,144; average yield, 31.44. Barley, acres sown, 1,219; bushels raised, 23,298; average yield, 19.11; Rye, acres sown, 61; bushels raised, 893; average yield, 14.63. Buckwheat, acres sown, 98; bushels raised, 970; average yield, 10 bushels. Potatoes, acres planted, 381; bushels raised, 31,659; average yield, 83 bushels. Flax, acres sown, 145; bushels raised, 1,327; average, 9 bushels. Apple trees growing, 22,546; apple trees bearing, 2184.

The first census giving the nationalities of the residents of the county was in 1870 as follows:

American, 3,323; Canadians, 203; English, 97; Irish, 91; Swedes, 26; Norwegians, 8; Danes, 3; Germans, 66; French, 4.

Compare this with the census of 1895 as to foreign born:

Polish, 42; English, 181; Irish, 120; Scotch, 21; Welsh, 5; Danes, 148; Norwe-

gians, 243; Swedes, 822; Germans, 1,640; French, 6; Canadians, 207. This shows the increase of our foreign born citizens, and that our Germans are not quite double in number to our Swedish citizens.

The total number of school districts in the county in 1880 was 68; total number of school houses 63 and total number of of scholars enrolled, 1,504. Number of births during the year of 1879, 166; number of deaths in the county for the same year 51.

There were 19 post offices in 1880, as follows: Cedarville, Chain Lake Center, Dunnell, East Chain Lakes, Fairmont, Horicon, Lake Belt, May, Monroe, Nashville Center, North Star, Pleasant Prairie, Rose Lake, Rutland, Sherburne, Tenhassen, Triumph, Waverly and Westford.

In closing the history of this county up to the year 1880 it is proper that we make a summary to that time in order that we may be able to judge something of the future. The first settlement was made when this state was still a territory. This county was then unknown, and was with nine now prosperous counties part and parcel of Brown county. No farms, no post offices, no communication with the outside world except by the Indian and trapper trails, afoot or with ox teams. With no farm products raised the supplies for the sustenance of our first settlers was brought from long distances through cold winters, blustering storms, hardships and privations almost past the comprehension of those who live here at the present time. Add to all these the perils and dangers of the early settlers and their families from Indian massacres and the constant menace by them to their lives until the establishment by the

government of forts garrisoned by U. S. soldiers.

The slow gradual settlement by the addition of perhaps half a dozen families a year, when every resident within a radius of 20 miles was a neighbor, with no schools, no place of worship, no social organizations; the readers who have followed the history will see the gradual development, the building up and creation of the various and necessary organizations of society, civilization and settlement of the county. How first each additional settler would be welcomed and anything that tended to bring them closer together and unite them into a community with the laws and customs of older places. It may be true that those who first made the pathway and marked the trails for settlement and keep in advance of families who desire to make permanent settlement are the trappers and people lacking in education but this county, if such be the case, was an exception. Among our first settlers were those who came from well settled and older settlements in the East, and having all the intelligence and refinement of the communities from which they removed. They came here for the purpose of establishing a home for themselves and their children. It is the history of all new countries that the first settlers, those who endured the hardships and made possible a better day for the later settlers, seldom get the benefit of their privations in the way of accumulation of property. The best days of their lives and energies have been expended in a battle to bring forth from the solitude of an unsettled county a development from its wild condition, resources which shall make it possible and profitable for actual settle-

ment and accumulation of property. This country has been particularly unfortunate on account of its settlement being retarded by Indian massacres and a period of time when crops were a failure owing to the locust devastations, yet from this it has gradually improved until roads were established, post offices created, places of worship erected and educational institutions built. It took years to make the start. Development, like the snow ball set in motion gradually increases in size and the longer it is kept in motion the greater and more rapid is its growth.

Then an unbroken prairie with the exception of a little timber skirting the shores of our lakes now has the appearance of a timber country. The census of 1890 gave the number of acres of artificial timber in this county as 4,700 acres scattered all over our prairies. The dug-out in the side hill and the sod shanty, the straw stable and the well in the slough have given place to the modern residence, capacious barns, overflowing granaries and artesian and tubular wells with wind-mill attachments. Instead of bringing in grain and supplies for sustenance from a long distance over drifted snow on the pack and hand sled this county ships our wheat, oats, corn and flax, also hogs and cattle sufficient it would seem to supply the inhabitants of the entire country at the time of the Revolutionary war. With only a few miles of railroad in Wisconsin, none in this state, the Dakotas, Nebraska and the group of states in the west, with our only communication by way of the slow laborious work of the stage coaches carrying the United States mails, when every passenger was expected if necessary to work his passage by assisting



in lifting the coach out of the mire. We have witnessed development until the network of railroad communication extends all over this state. We can take passage at any station in this county in the evening, retire to rest in a Pullman coach and in the morning wake up in the city of Chicago.

To-day there is hardly a family that does not have a top buggy and some of our farmers have fine equipages. If we desire to communicate with the outside world the fast mail is at our disposal, and the missive contained in our letter reaches our friend or business acquaintance in the number of hours that it used to take days. The electric wire is at our disposal giving almost instantaneous communication. Even as we have been writing we have heard our people communicating over the telephone wire with distance points in this and other counties and are able in some instances to recognize the voices of those with whom we are talking. It took long years for the accomplishment of all this, yet as we stop and think it seems but a day. Judging the future by the accomplishments of the past, what has the next quarter of a century got in store for Martin County? A brother of ours writing of this country in 1880 used this language: "I have seen a good deal of this country and I have concluded that you have as fine a location as any place North or West, and the citizens and the surroundings more pleasant and more agreeable than any place I have seen." That was his estimate of it after our first quarter of a century residence here. We are unable to conjecture; we make no pretensions to prophesy. If the developments of the future keeps pace with

that of the past it may be that before some of the first settlers are called to depart this life more wonderful changes may be witnessed by them. It was as much a matter of conjecture and uncertainty as to our rapid transportation of the present time as it is for us now to think of being able to navigate the air with conveyances for passengers and carrying of freight. Inventive genius which has given us the machinery by which our farms are tilled and the vocations of business and manufacture are carried on, if it continues to expand for a like time, will revise our present mode of farming, etc. The electric lights have turned night into day. They may be utilized in the near future so there will be no night and the most imaginary conjecture of the fiction writer may be realized as to our navigation through space or underneath our lakes or the ocean. Whatever the future may have in store we know the past and am proud of the record of the early settlers while here. Their reunion when they meet together for social intercourse, converse and reminiscence should be perpetuated and made lasting. In these days of rapidity we are apt to forget or overlook the humble beginning as to individuals and communities. It may be considered sentimental, yet we believe that the well being of nations, communities and individuals should lead them to remember their past and their humble origin and let the experience of their lives be a guide. Old buildings and land marks should be preserved. A sod shanty would be a great curiosity to our present settlers. In the great city of Minneapolis this year large delegations of children from the public schools accompanied by bands of music

moved the first house built on the site of that city to its public park at Minnehaha, there to remain for the inspection of its citizens and visitors. As to comparison with the palatial residences and immense business blocks, it has none, yet it is harmonious with the beginning.

As yet this county has taken no steps to perpetuate any of its first buildings. There is on Main Street a store building moved from the site of the then mill northwest of the city in 1864. It was the first business building in Fairmont or in this county. This summer as we walked by we saw it filled with small children and learned that it was used as a kindergarten. We thought then of the beginning of business and that it was well occupied as the beginning of the earliest education of our children. We are not believers in sham aristocracy or pretence. No business man or other individual is so unsafe or insecure as when they forget the beginning and the lessons which it taught. We suggest that the

old settlers at their next meeting devise some plan and perfect some organization to perpetuate some of the land marks of the early settlement. While the first have been destroyed in the march of improvement, there are still some which remain at the present time which can be kept for the inspection of our children and those who will follow them.

We have with our best care and effort from the records written the main incidents of this county for 24 years. They may not be all absolutely correct but we believe they are. We have refrained from language in descriptions which would savor of what the present generation would call old settlers' yarns. If the information we have given shall be of any benefit to the future and of interest to the present settlers we shall be repaid for the time we have spent, and we trust the history will be continued from 1880 at a later time by those who are competent to enter the same of record.

WM. H. BUDD.